Tale of EHS

2016 Edition

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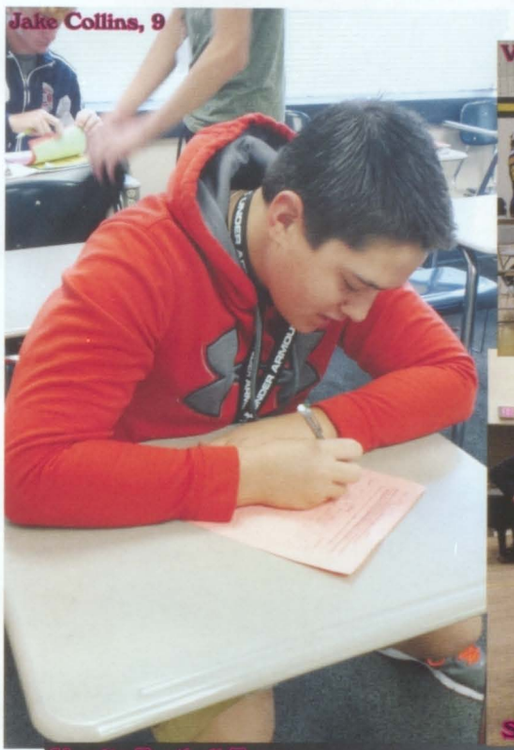
Tale of GHS

2016 Edition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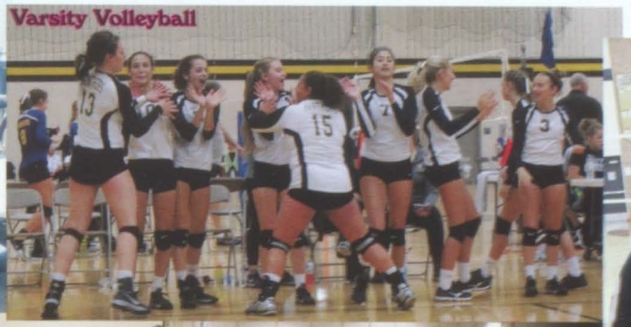
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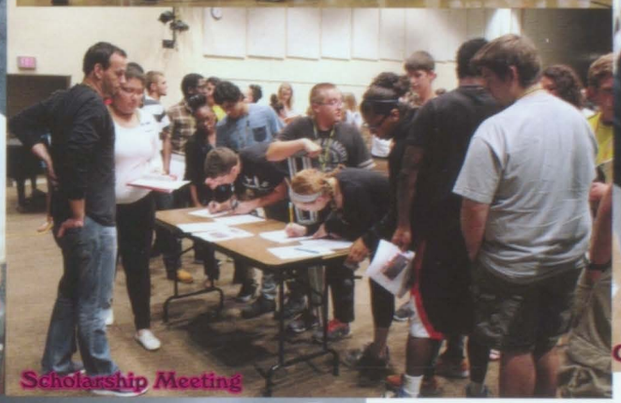
Scholarship Meeting

Christian Rivera, 10

Varsity Football Team

The Reflector

Vol. 75

Griffith High School

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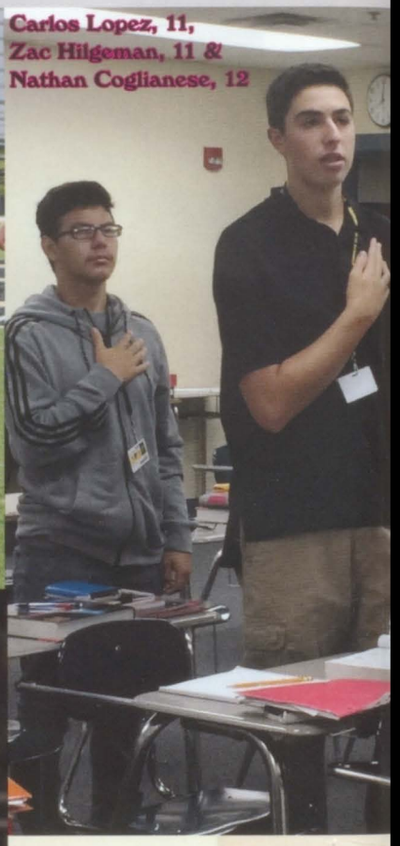
Enrollment: 803

Ashley Vera, 11

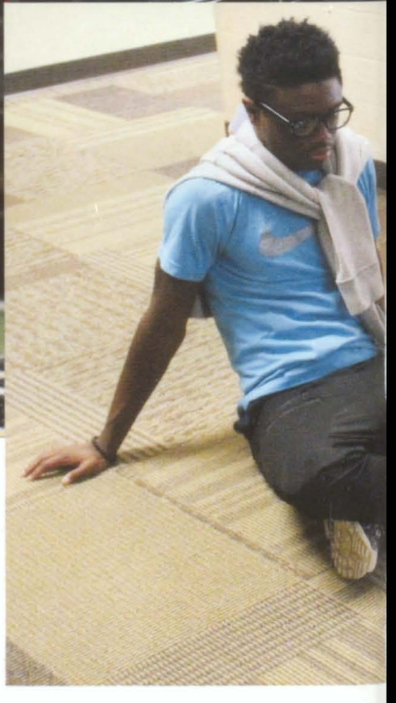
Jazmin Lopez, 12 & Jessica Lopez, 10

Breanna Hamilton, 11 & Will Carroll, 9



Carlos Lopez, 11,
Zac Hilgeman, 11 &
Nathan Coglianese, 12

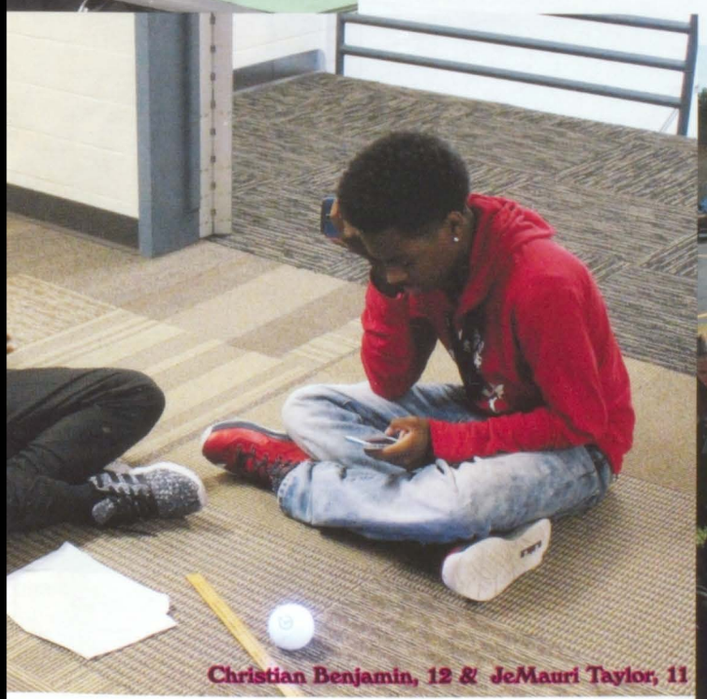
GHS Pantherettes



Once Upon a GHS

On August 12, 2015, the students and faculty of Griffith High School prepared for the very beginning of yet another year of academic achievement. As the student body stepped out of their cars and headed into the building, they began another chapter in their life's storybook. Freshmen came into the school and scratched the surface of their high school experience, sophomores shook off their first year fears and returned for another year of new memories, juniors faced the true stresses of school and the start of college/career preparation, and seniors came to the realization that their high school years were quickly coming to a close and the future was just around the corner. Even though students are constantly changing whether it be grade levels or personalities, the entire student body stayed together and contributed to another successful year of being a Panther. The amount of pride and school spirit that was present at sporting events demonstrated to other schools the level of dedication that Griffith has in their school. Each and every student's high school journey is like a storybook, full of eventful memories and unforgettable experiences that will be treasured for a lifetime.

Each year brings about new changes, and that held true for the 2015-2016 school year. Instead of the infamous, short period that students referred to as "advocacy" from last year, GHS introduced "Panther Time." This 20 minutes followed a weekly black or gold format that covered additional English and math standards along with one day a week that solely focused on important life lessons such as the harmful effects of bullying, important tips for a successful job interview, and the real truths behind daily cell phone usage. With the new Panther Time came new additions to the teaching staff. One surprise that students encountered at registration was seeing the names of new teachers printed on their schedules. Six brand new faces were incorporated into the high school administration, filling the positions in math, English, science, and the construction shop, which was a new addition to the high school's class list. The first of the two most recognizable changes to the school system was the opportunity to access the courtyard during lunch periods. Students were allowed to sit outside only if they headed to the office and signed up before the beginning of the school day on Monday. Once they signed up, they would then head outside where they were supervised by an administrator. The next valuable change was the brand new Griffith logo. Instead of using the crest from the years past, Griffith renovated their symbol by replacing the old one with the head of a panther. It was pasted on the football team's helmets and the GHS social media pages.



Christian Benjamin, 12 & JeMauri Taylor, 11

Bella Maglish, 11, Bridget Beck, 11 & Rachel Kruhaj, 11

Chapter 1

The opening nine weeks of the 2015-2016 school year were words that filled the pages of each student's high school "storybook." As the year began, students adjusted to the dreaded routine of hearing their alarms and heading to the brick palace that consumed the majority of their lives for approximately ten months. School days were a blur of early mornings that included grabbing textbooks from lockers and rushing passed Mr. Gordon before hearing "Where's your I.D.?" followed by the 8 a.m. bell. Senior's time in GHS ticked away as they prepared for graduation and focused on future plans. As the freshman faced the realities of high school life, their experiences compared to days in the middle school on the other half of the building were completely changed. "Everything was so different. The classes were way more difficult than middle school was. High school carries a lot more stress, too. It was weird being the youngest in the school and at the bottom of the totem pole. The environment was different too, but I'm excited for the rest of my years in high school and all of the memories that I'm going to make," said freshman Zach Goodman.

One event that was prominent during the first weeks of school was club and team fundraising. DECA was responsible for selling boxes of candy in order to meet their required funds. Most of the selling was accomplished during passing periods throughout the school day and, if some students were lucky, there would be a student carrying around a box with them during classes. The swim team took a different route and offered Alexandra's Pierogies by the dozen. The panther bowlers asked for buyers interested in purchasing raffle tickets.

Also a major occurrence during the first quarter was Homecoming week. Spirit days included: dress-up day, decade day, holiday day, Disney day, and black and gold day. If one was following the senior schedule though, he or she would have switched out two of the days for nerd day and gender-swap day. Throughout the week, students participated in a variety of activities such as the senior prank, pep rally, football game, broad street parade, and the dance itself. The theme for this year was "Around the World" with the accompanying theme song "Where Are You Now" by Justin Bieber. Tickets were sold the week before and the week of the dance for $20 a single and $25 a couple. The event took place in the field house on the night of September 26.

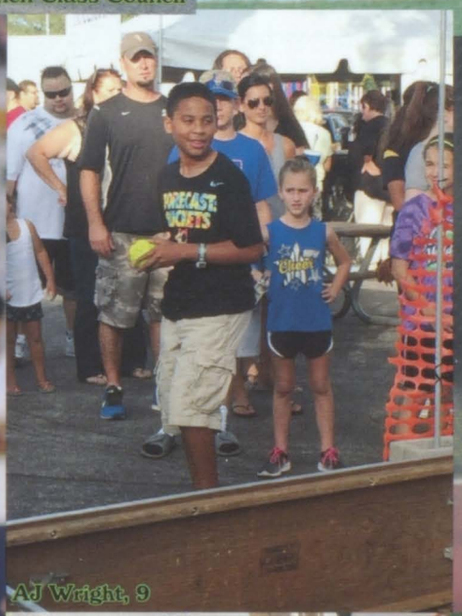
In addition to traditional activities, Griffith welcomed new teachers to the staff and the opening quarter was their first taste of the life they would have as a high school teacher in this town. One new teacher, Tim McCoy, filled a position in the math department by teaching Algebra Enriched and Geometry. "Teaching at GHS was very new to me, but I love it here," said McCoy.

The Pantherettes had two new additions to their team, sophomore Kaylyn Perez and junior Leyah Hodge. "I was so nervous to dance in front of the school, but I felt a lot better being next to my teammates and sisters," said Hodge.

Freshmen Class Council

Matt McInerney, 11

Tayvien Walker, 10


AJ Wright, 9

Josh Zoran, 12

Senior Class Council

Football Student Section

GHS Band

Natalie Halley, 11, Paige Zoran, 9 & Alexis Engle, 10

The Hallway Life

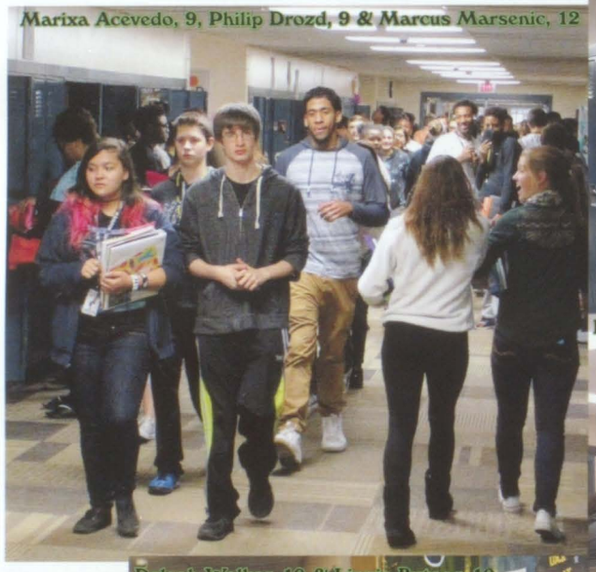
As the clock struck 7:55A.M., the five minute bell rang and students heard Mr. Gordon's loud, but stern voice all the way down the hall. "Let's go. Move it, move it," yelled Gordon. The slamming of lockers then got repetitive and it was commonplace to see students rushing to get to their first hour to avoid receiving a tardy. "Hearing Mr. Gordon's voice in the morning is almost intimidating and makes you want to get to class early so you're not caught without your ID," said freshman Morgan Willis.

When it came down to students sharing lockers, most students decided to split the space in order to arrive to their classes on time since the location of their friend's locker was convenient. Students felt it was much easier to share lockers because it saved time and gave people a chance to mingle. Seniors Erica Kik and Bethany Brucer shared Brucer's locker next to English teacher Sheila Vaclavik in the lower H hall. "Sharing a locker with my best friend made my day more interesting. Our locker was right in the middle of all our classes so I had no reason to rush to get to my class on time," said Kik.

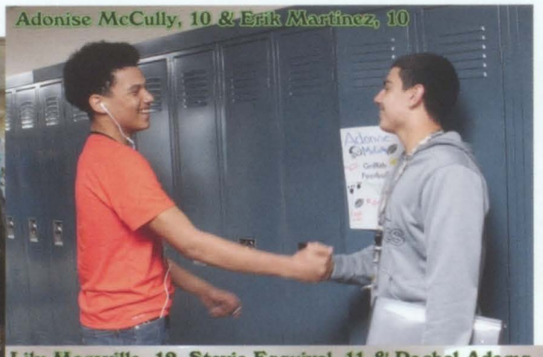
Although Griffith isn't one of the biggest schools, it was still a challenge to get to a class on time or before the bell rang. "My hardest class to get to was definitely health. Since my second hour was math with Keith Mitchell upstairs, it was a struggle to arrive to health, which is downstairs and near the field house, on time. I usually made it with about fifteen seconds to spare when I had to stop at my locker first," said sophomore Jake Diamond. The school is small enough to make it anywhere in a matter of five minutes. Time just needed to be used wisely.

The high school hallway will always be filled with memories that people hold on to for the rest of their lives. "During my junior year, on my way to my fifth hour, I went to Zach Thomas' locker to pull a prank on him, which was filling up his locker with a bunch of garbage. Later on when I got back to my locker and opened it Zach had pulled the exact same prank on me that same day," said senior Antonio Garcia.

Whether students will remember the great decorations that adorned their lockers from the booster club or a parent, or the craziness of locker clean-out, they will always remember the friendships and good times made in the hallways of GHS.

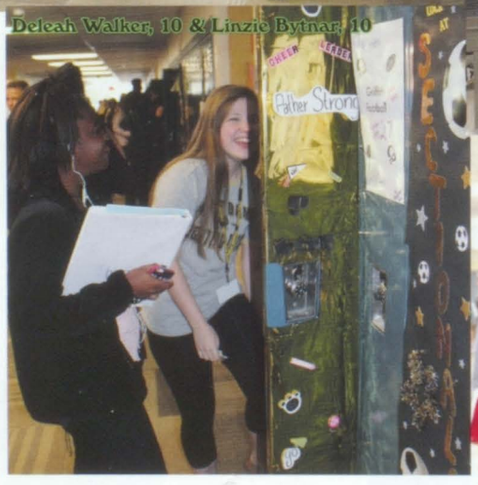


Marixa Acevedo, 9, Philip Drozd, 9 & Marcus Marsenic, 12



Adonise McCully, 10 & Erik Martinez, 10

Lily Maravilla, 12, Stevie Esquivel, 11 & Rachel Adams, 12



Deleah Walker, 10 & Linzie Bytnar, 10

Morgan Ladendorf, 10

Passing through the hallway, freshmen Camryn Sinars, Grace Opinker, Lauren Atkinson, and Jessica Terzarial go to their fourth hour panther time. "I normally check my phone and see if I receive any texts before going to class," said Sinars.

With phone in hand, seniors Andrew Vera, Nathan Vukovich, and Lauren Vieyra take a selfie. "There's never a day that I don't make a trip to Andrew's locker to see what's going on. Nothing makes a high school memory like a selfie," said Vukovich.

While at her locker after third hour, senior Sidney Hero and junior Kyle Labicki check Hero's phone. "After every class I stop by Sidney's locker just to see what's up and talk to her. It's probably one of my favorite parts of the day," said Labicki.

5 Minutes to Let Loose

What do you accomplish in a passing period?

"Since we only get five minutes for a passing period there isn't much time to do anything. My favorite thing to do during the break is talk with my friends and just enjoy the company of walking to class with them. Our schedules are so different that I don't get to see many of my friends throughout the day."

Marc Alvarez, 12

"Passing periods are probably one of my favorite things during the school day. Even though it's such a short amount of time, there are multiple things I can get done. Walking with my friends is my all time favorite because I get to catch up on how their days are going. Also I check my phone for texts."

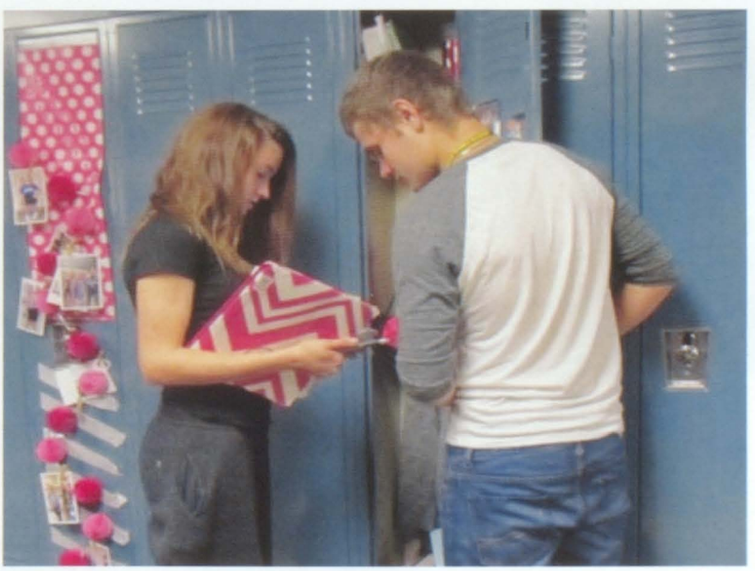
Luke Reid, 11

"After every class period I head straight to my locker and grab all the books and materials I'll need for my next period. When I finish at my locker I look around the hallway for some of my classmates to talk to and then I look forward to eating my daily brownie and walking to my next class on a full stomach."

Sierra Slaven, 10

"When I leave class I find my friends and walk with them to my locker. After, I gather my supplies for my next class and I meet back up with my friends to walk to class together. I always make sure I have headphones to listen to music until I've reached the classroom just in case I have to walk alone."

Chris Albanese, 9



Expresso Yourself

The annual Griffith High School choir fundraiser was held on the evening of September 30th, 2015. Coffee Night was sponsored by GHS Choir. Kristin Anderson, choir director, organized the event.

The temperature began to drop, but the show still took place in the GHS courtyard. A stage, instruments, and microphones were set up for the talented students to show off their skills. Tables and chairs were set up for the anxious people waiting to see the performances. Students that did not want to participate helped work concessions, sold tickets, handed out schedules for the line-up of performances, and brought in baked goods. "This was my last two years on choir and I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity, so when Mrs. Anderson said she needed helpers, I gladly volunteered. It made me feel satisfied when I saw how many people came to support GHS Choir," said junior Gabby Hamm.

There were a total of eleven performances that ranged from a stand-up comedian to a fully-organized band. "For my performance I was a stand-up comedian. I was confident before going on stage because everyone likes a nice joke. That was my first time being on stage and it was pretty memorable. I'm planning on going back up there next year," said sophomore Jesse Rosario.

Tickets were sold at the entrance of the courtyard for $3 to benefit the choir department. Friends, families, and teachers filled the courtyard with warm attire and curiosity as to what talent would be shown. Coffee, baked goods, and hot chocolate were being sold at prices ranging from $0.50 to $1.50 before, during, and after each performance.

In between the performances the atmosphere was occupied by side conversations, claps, and laughs. Throughout the performances the crowd respectfully gave the students their full attention. Halfway through the event, Officer Peter Ghrist made an announcement of a $100 donation from the Griffith Police Department.

Everyone in the audience expressed their joy through smiles, yelling, and clapping. "I decided to go to Coffee Night because I wanted to see all the talent that the students at our school have. I enjoyed every performance there. Each student showed their different, unique talent," said junior Renee Adams.

A Singer's Experience

Kylie Maloney, 10

Sophomore Kylie Maloney was one of the first performances that occurred during Coffee Night. Her performance consisted of singing the song "Riptide" by Vance Joy because it was upbeat and in her range. She has been a part of the Griffith High School choir for two years and wants to continue to be a part of it throughout the rest of her time in high school. "I enjoy being in choir and I wanted to help raise money for the program. I hope to be able to perform in next years' Coffee Night," said Maloney.

Maloney has been singing in school since fourth grade, and has been singing since she was five-years-old. "My father has always been in a band, which was a major influence when I was younger and it still to this day," said Maloney.

Before each of her performances she does a few vocal stretches and practices her song a few more times. Vocal stretches are used to warm up her voice, so no damage can be done while she does her performance. Maloney also talks to her dad to see if he has any words to encourage her. "I'm nervous every time I perform in front of people, but after I'm done singing I feel amazing. Sometimes I don't understand why I get nervous in the first place," said Maloney.

With joy in their voice, Coffee Night hosts sophomore Skylar Davenport and junior Zack Keil announce the first performance of the night. "I had a great time with my partner (Davenport) despite the weather outside," said Keil.

Match the Talents

A

1

Ali Schoon, 10

B

2

Zach Winchester, 10

C

3

Elana Jones, 12

Answer Key: A. 3 B. 1 C. 2

While sophomore Nina Mendoza sings the song "Landslide" by Fleetwood Mac, her sister, senior Marissa Mendoza plays the guitar. "This was the first song I learned to play on the guitar and it felt amazing to perform," said Marissa Mendoza.

"Working the coffee stand was hectic at times, but it was fascinating to watch all my peers go and perform on stage," said junior Melanie Vera. Vera patiently waited for more customers who needed her assistance during Coffee Night.

Around the World

School spirit filled the hallways starting Monday, September 21, because of Homecoming week. This year's theme was "Around the World" with the song "Where Are You Now" by Justin Bieber. The student body showed their spirit by dressing up that week. Monday was dress up day, Tuesday was decade day, Wednesday was holiday day, Thursday was Disney day, and Friday was black and gold day. As for the senior class, they followed a different format. Decade day was replaced with nerd day and holiday day turned into gender swap day. "It was definitely a sight to see everyone looking silly," said junior Trevor Sheffield.

When the sun went down on Thursday, seniors came out and worked on their senior prank. They were allowed to go inside the school while several teachers and Officer Ghrist supervised. The seniors filled the showcases in G hall with colored balloons. They also had giant wood boards that were sprayed painted, saying "Seniors run this, 2015." Adding to that, the seniors used styrofoam cups that outlined the G in the middle of the Willy Wonka hallway. The next morning the janitors cleaned up most of the prank right away.

When the school day was over, the Homecoming parade and football game took place. The parade was at four o'clock on Broad street and the game started at seven. "The football team was pumped and ready to go. My senior year Homecoming game was for sure an unforgettable experience," said senior Jacob Cottrell. An hour before game time, the stands filled with Griffith residents and students that supported the Griffith football team. The final score at the end of the night was: Munster 41, Griffith 24. "The boys were really discouraged when they lost, but they made a remarkable comeback for the rest of the season," said coach Ben Geffert.

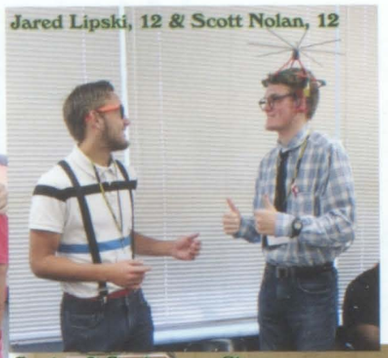
In the morning, most girls started getting their hair, makeup, and other dance preparations done. "I went to my aunts to get my hair done, went home to do my makeup, and finally picked up my date," said sophomore Cassie Barnaby. "I hopped in the shower, ironed my shirt, styled my hair, got dressed, and left," said sophomore Jake Dye. Around 6:30 p.m., students began to line up outside the field house doors with their tickets in their hand and their friends by their sides as they waited for the night to begin.

The second annual powder puff game between the juniors and seniors took place on Wednesday, September 23. "Of course the senior girls won because we run this," said senior Kailey Shepard. The final score was 6-0.

Performing at the pep rally, the Pantherettes smile and do their traditional letter block which spelled "HC 2015." "My first year performing in the pep rally as a Pantherette was stressful but also outstanding," said freshman Dynahstee Moore.

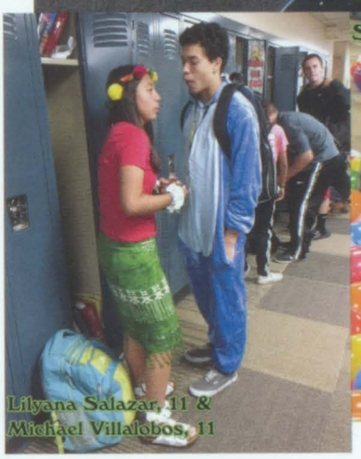
Working on their assignment in Fred Farnell's Chem I class, sophomores Jessica Lopez and Alexis Johnson show their school spirit on Disney day. "I enjoyed dressing up because I love *The Nightmare Before Christmas*," said Johnson.

Oscar Magallanes, 12, Camryn Linders, 12, Adrian Lopez, 12 & Caroline Loughren, 12



Jared Lipski, 12 & Scott Nolan, 12

Senior & Sophomore Class



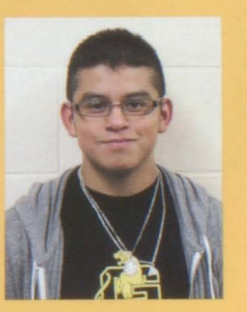
Lilyana Salazar, 11 & Michael Villalobos, 11

Senior Prank

The Perfect Date

"My date to homecoming was my friend, Jose Bauldauf. He was the perfect date because he was so excited to be there and meet new people. Jose was filled with energy throughout the entire night. At the dance we danced with everyone and took pictures with our friends. When the dance ended, we went bowling and we both had an amazing time. I wouldn't have wanted to go with anyone else. He brought so much joy to my night and it was very special."

Dana Jelenski, 11



"My date that I took to homecoming was my best friend Jessica Lopez. She was the perfect date. I chose to ask her because I knew we would have a blast together. I figured that if I went with one of my closest friends, why wouldn't I have fun? After homecoming, Jessica and I, as well as some of our other friends went to Bridges Scoreboard. We all had a nice time and the food was great. Overall, the whole night was perfect."

Christopher Mares, 10

A Night to Remember

Homecoming Dance

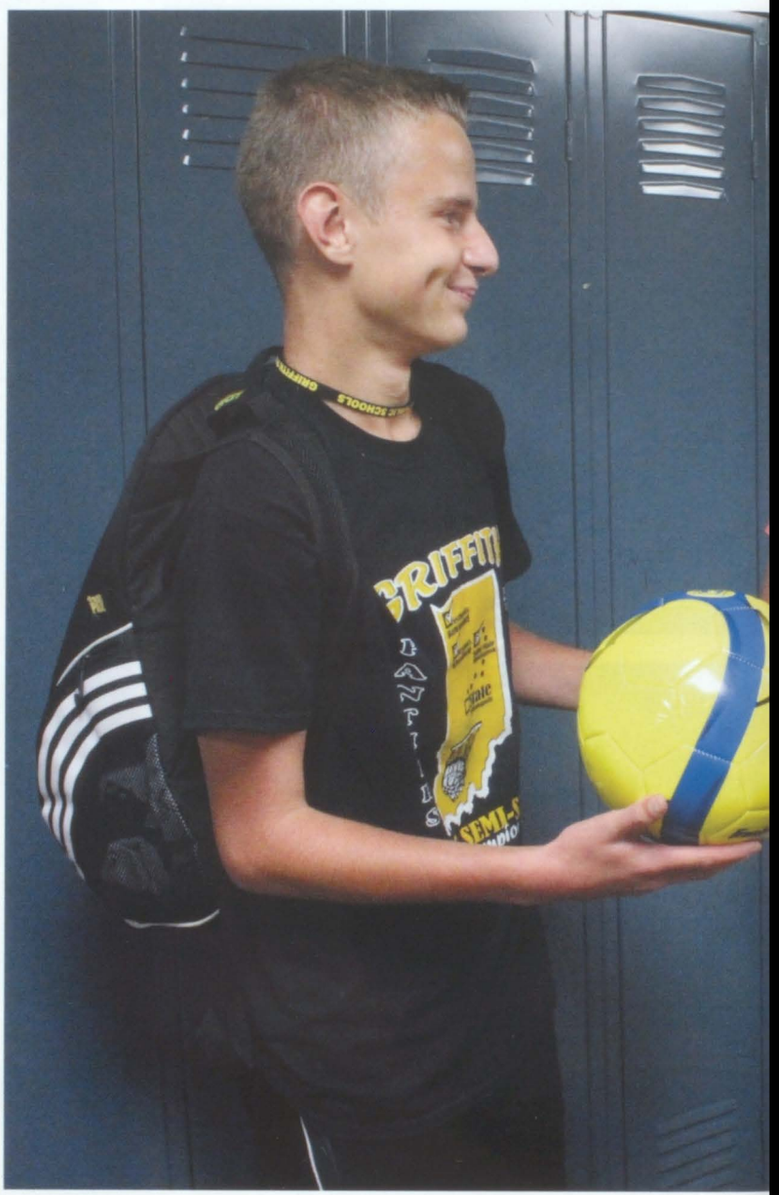
Collin Sutton, 12, Alec Seberger, 11 & Joey Soy, 11

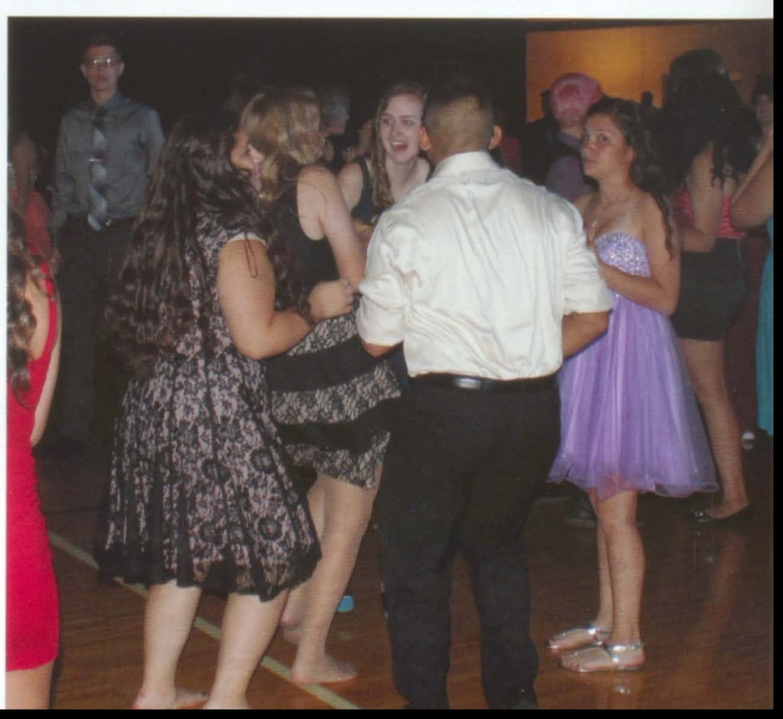
Senior Prank

Daniel Welch, 10 Molly Mills, 9 & Christian Holley, 9

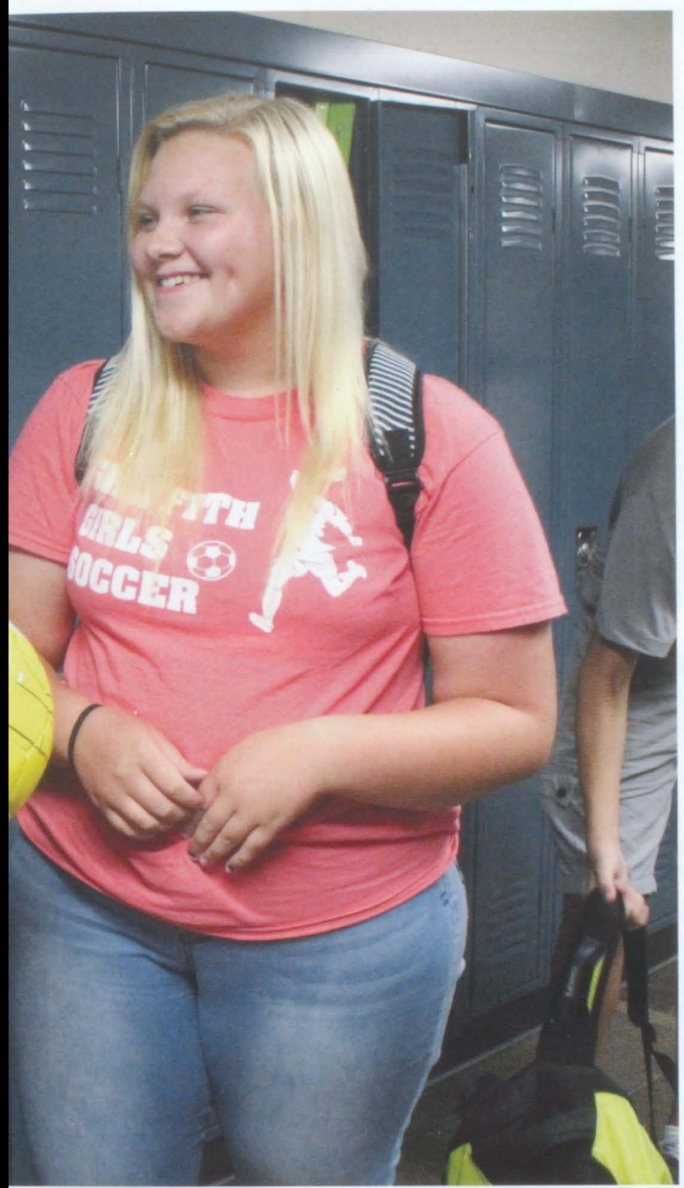
Alison Johnson, 10

At the Homecoming dance with her friends, sophomore Gabriella Qunitana enjoys her second dance. "My favorite part of the night was just being with my friends and making even more memories with them," said Quintana.





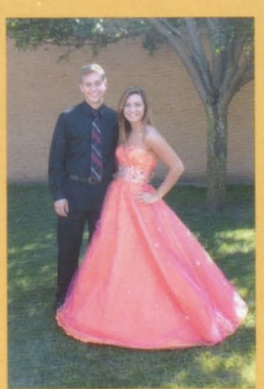
Asking one of his good friends, sophomore, Makenna Sons, sophomore Shawn Graham used their mutual sport, soccer, to ask her to homecoming this year. "I just walked up to her and asked. She looked really happy," said Graham.



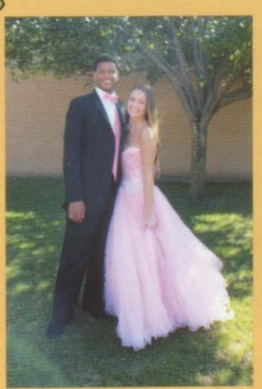
King & Queen

This year, the homecoming game fell on Friday, September 25. Unlike last year, the weather was warm and sunny. "I think it's an honor to be on court, but having two of my closest friends on it with me makes the experience even better," said senior Caroline Loughren. During fifth hour on Friday, a video was aired that introduced the students on court. The potential kings and queens had to get to the school by 5:45 p.m. to get ready for the game. They all got into a room at the beginning of the second quarter to put on their dresses and get into their tuxes. Last year's winners, Lawrence Mosley and Courtney Bell, crowned this year's winners. But, Bell's niece, Lillie Bell, crowned instead since Bell was away. Rocco Renton was crowned king and Janiwa Magee was crowned queen. "I was so excited to win and I wanted to thank everyone for voting for me. It's my best high school memory yet," said Magee. The next day at the dance, the new royals wore their crowns.

Homecoming Court 2015

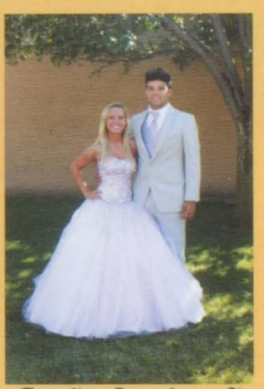


Jacob Adams & Victoria Holtzer

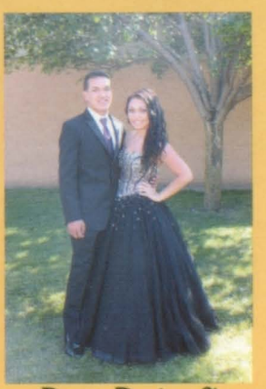


Tremell Murphy & Lily Maravilla

Janiwa Magee & Anthony Murphy



Caroline Loughren & Anthony Quintero



Rocco Renton & Lauren Vieyra

Going for the Gold

This past season the football team had a positive outlook for the year. The team started winter conditioning in mid-February and continued with summer conditioning under the sun. Many players wanted to be sure that they were prepared for the season, so they decided to wake up early some days for optional morning conditioning in the winter. Once summer rolled around, two-a-days had begun, a practice in the morning and another in the evening.

"With it being my senior year, I wanted to make the best of it. The team definitely pulled through this year and I couldn't be more proud of them. The summer conditionings and extra practices really paid off in the end," said senior Zach Thomas.

Ben Geffert, PE, had taken over the position of head coach for the Panthers. He was appointed the position at the end of the previous school year. This was his second year teaching at the high school.

The Panthers finished their season advancing to the second round of sectionals, against Hammond High, on November 6. The Panthers lost 14-17. This season the Panthers took four wins, including sectionals. The team had many close games as well.

"The team really stepped up this year. We had a good boost of confidence, and we couldn't have gone as far as we did without Coach Geffert. Geffert helped us all improve individually and as a team as well. I'm glad that this past season was a good start as a football coach here at Griffith, and I wish him the best of luck for the following years," said senior Tim Cichon.

"Of course, every year is wished to be our year. I saw potential in these boys from the beginning, and although we didn't go as far as we intended to this season, we definitely went farther than we did the previous year, which is something that every player should be proud of. With each year, I intend to push my players to go as far as we can," said Geffert.

The end of the season gave hope to the returning players. Now, these players had a different outlook on the seasons to come and have more motivation.

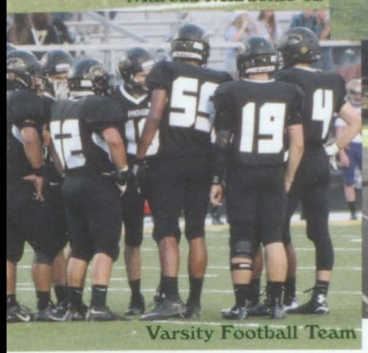
"This last season was one to remember; something for the books. When we return next year, we will be stronger and advance even farther," said junior Michael Villalobos.

During the Griffith vs Hobart game held at our home field, senior Troy Cullen searches for an open player. "Hobart was not only our first home game, but it was also our first season win. This set the bar for the rest of the season," said Cullen.

Collin Sutton, 12

Marcus Marsenic 12

Josh Miller, 11



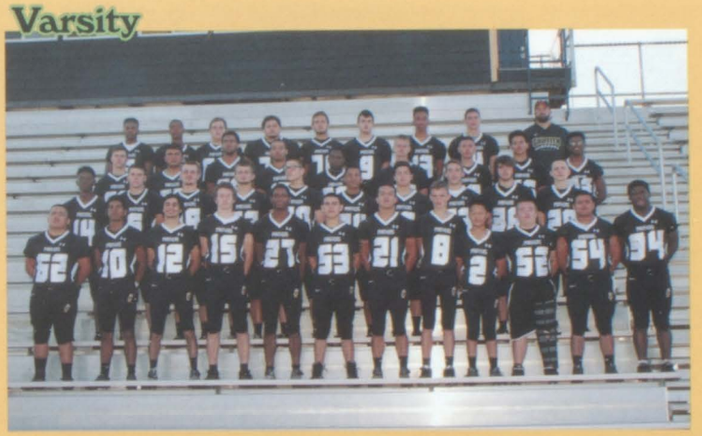
Varsity Football Team

Michael Torres, 12

Ending the game against E.C. Central, senior Jacob Cottrell ends the game with a touchdown. "It's a lot of pressure when I get passed the ball, but the feeling after scoring a touchdown is the best feeling ever," said Cottrell.

"This season, the team improved dramatically. We've had some tough losses, but we've gained a few good wins," said senior Antonio Garcia. The Panthers played against Munster with the game resulting in a 24-41 loss.

Varsity



Row 1: Norberto Nunez, Jacob Cottrell, Anes Issa, Josh Miller, Tayvien Walker, Erik Martinez, Rocco Renton, Isaiah Ramirez, Khuslen Solongo, Joey Soy, Diego Burgos, Jorge Robinson
Row 2: Jamaal Johnson, Troy Cullen, Zach Thomas, Collin Sutton, Oscar Magallanes, Jared Cottrell, Michael Villalobos, Alec Seberger, Charles Flores, Anthony Rodriguez
Row 3: Tim Cichon, Antonio Garcia, Marcus Marsenic, Anthony Compton, Tyrone Freeman, Kyle Sutton, Adrian Rodriguez, Adonise McCully, Christian Benjamin
Row 4: Jamahl Johnson, Isaiah Allen, Nick Conti, Michael Torres, Jared Lipski, Cameron Crowe, Fredrick Wintson, Joey Martoccio, Ben Geffert

Freshmen

Row 1: Jalyn Perry-Bell, Christian Raglin, Matthew Peterson, Cole Cervantes, Andrew Braddy, Kevon Tillman
Row 2: Nick Garner, Luis Maldonado, Jeremiah LuVert, Kyle Iwinski, Xavier Robinson, Ernest Johnson, Cesar Valdez, Tyler Robertson
Row 3: Josh Peterson, Andrew Davenport, Aaron Mitchell, DeShawn Williams, Matthew Dildine, Elijah Faulkner, Michael Brown

Opponent:	Score:
Wawasee	7-21
Wheeler	27-28
Hobart	**21-19**
Lowell	6-61
Kankakee Valley	8-16
Munster	24-41
Highland	**42-21**
Andrean	31-53
EC Central	**21-12**

Sectionals:

Rensselaer Central	**15-14**
Hammond	14-17

Final Record: 4-7

Varsity

Row 1: Will Carroll, Keith Hernandez, Matthew Alvarez, Matt McInerney, Andrew Vera, Diego Sanchez, Shadi Haddad
Row 2: Jake Kamaski, Justin Moyo, Marc Alvarez, Jordan Galindo, Luke Pospychala, Jose Gonzalez, Cameron Bobos, Jacob Damski
Row 3: Ronald Knestrict, Cameron Starks, Adrian Lopez, Anthony Quintero, Marko Stosic, Cristian Haddock, Matt Plawecki

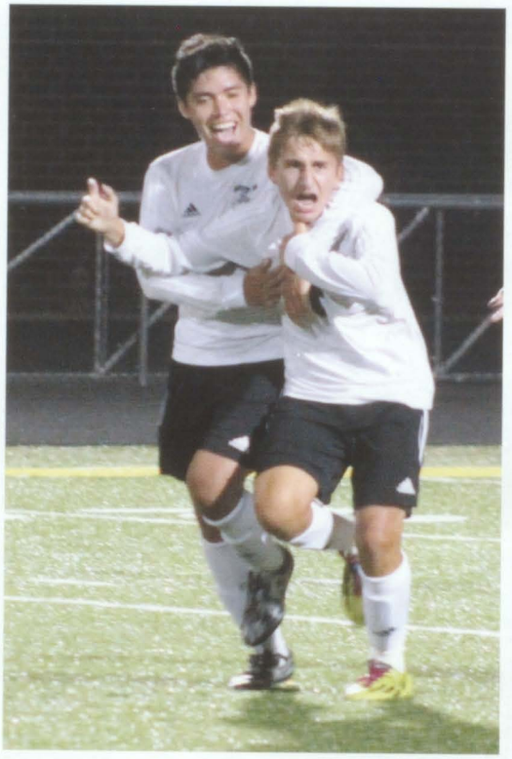
Junior Varsity

Row 1: Will Carroll, Shadi Haddad, Shawn Graham, Carlos Lopez, Matthew Alvarez, Taylor Bliss, Cameron Bobos
Row 2: Jonathon Vasilak, Thomas Perez, Denny Colomes, Andrew Masters, Santiago Muro, Trenton Pulliam, Patrick Land, Diego Sanchez
Row 3: Matt Plawecki, Jake Diamond, Christian Schafer, Zachary Fisch, Scott Lesczynski, Marko Stosic, Cameron Starks, Saul Valencia, John Lawson

Opponent:	Score:
Hebron	1-1
Highland	0-3
Morton	**2-1**
Hobart	1-4
Portage	1-2
Andrean	**1-0**
East Chicago	1-2
Munster	0-6
LaPorte	0-7
Michigan City	0-0
Kankakee Valley	**3-2**
Bishop Noll	0-2
Lowell	**1-0**
Clark	0-4
Gavit	**10-0**
Wheeler	**3-2**

Final Record: 6 - 10

Placing the ball in play, sophomore Justin Moyo participates in his second season on the varsity soccer team. "I didn't finish the season like I wanted to but I had a blast playing with the amazing players on the team," said Moyo.



After scoring a goal to tie the game against KV, sophomore Jacob Damski celebrates with senior Marc Alvarez. "I had one of my favorite teammates around me and I was glad he was there when I tied," said Damski.

Take A Shot

Starting early in the year, the boys soccer team prepared themselves for the upcoming season by conditioning indoors from January to March. Practices were crucial to make sure that their skills were ready to take on the best teams around. Once June came around, the boys worked outside on the turf, running laps and focusing on shooting and passing. "The practices are hard but are worth it when you win a game," said sophomore Cameron Bobos.

The boys attended a tournament in Ohio at the beginning of July, and although they didn't get the outcome that they wanted, they bonded together and really got to know each other. "We had a couple freshmen that really proved that they deserved to be on varsity at the tournament. They're really talented and I see them leading this team in the next three years," said junior Luke Pospychala.

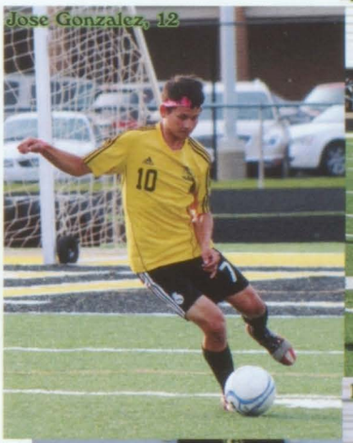
When the games began and the team had to show how hard they had worked on the offseason, the boys started off with a tie against Hebron, but then were faced with a hard loss from Highland. "We didn't do as well as we had hoped but we kept our heads high and made sure we stayed positive to set a good example for the underclassmen," said senior Adrian Lopez.

The team practiced everyday after school for two hours, then on Saturday mornings for two hours as well. They either practiced either on the turf, at the school, or at Beiriger.

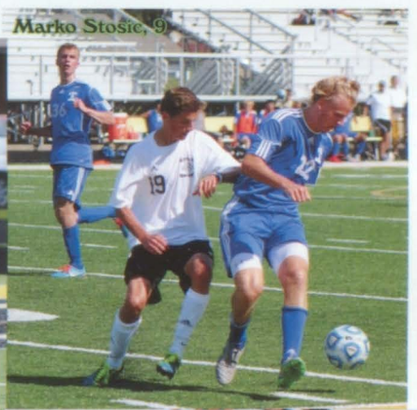
"My favorite memory of the past season was when we were playing Kankakee Valley and we were down by two goals. Jacob Damski (10) tied up the game and we went into overtime. We ended up winning and it was such a rush. Beating a team in overtime is difficult because the pressure is really on," said senior Jake Kamaski.

Ending the season with a loss, the players are already set on their destination for next year, which hopefully will bring many wins for the team. "Next year I want to focus on bettering myself as a soccer player and as a teammate because I want us to win sectionals and make it to state. I can see GHS going far with the soccer program. I'll be a senior so I want to step up and be a leader and someone that can be looked up to," said junior Keith Hernandez.

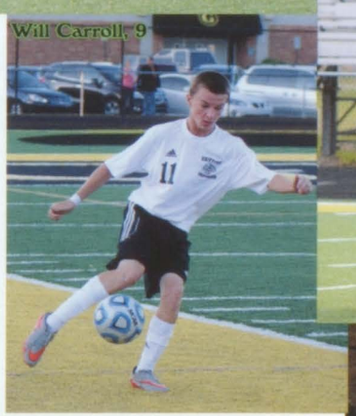
Jose Gonzalez, 12



Marko Stosic, 9

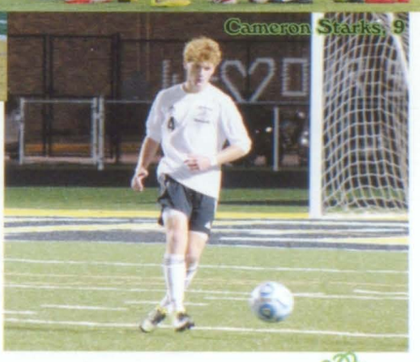


Will Carroll, 9



Boys Varsity Soccer

Cameron Starks, 9



As junior Jordan Galindo runs down the field at GHS, he prepares to score a goal against the Hebron varsity soccer team. "I believe in the phrase 'You miss 100% of the shots that you don't take'. So I try and take every chance I get," said Galindo.

Kicking it up a Notch

Driven and dedicated, the girls' soccer team ended the season with a winning record of 9-4-1. Scheduled matches with Merrillville High School and Bishop Noll Institution were canceled due to unplayable weather conditions. "Our records show that we had a pretty good season, but we wanted so much more," said senior Kira Lisle.

The girls' season began in the winter with training that occurred two days a week to get the girls back into shape. Many of the girls that played for travel teams were unable to attend the conditioning, however, many of the upcoming and newer players benefited from the training. They were able to meet and bond with players on the team, and get ready for summer practices. Summer workouts began about a week after school was let out. Over the summer the girls practiced for an hour and a half Monday through Thursday, and then Monday through Friday when mandatory practices began in August. This summer the girls took a trip to Ohio for a tournament that they left with a winning record of 4-1. Unfortunately, while in Ohio, one of the starting varsity seniors, Megan Mann, was injured. She fractured her toe on her left foot and was unable to participate in the first eight games of the season. She made her come back on senior night against Lowell and continued to play the rest of the season. "It was really upsetting sitting on the sidelines and being unable to play with my team, especially because it was my senior year, but I had a good time regardless," said Mann.

The 2015 season was one to remember for the Lady Panthers. The team was not on the top ten of the region at the start of the season, but climbed the ladder and remained on the top for the rest of the season, getting ranked as high as number four in the region. The girls also tied for second in conference with KV High School. Statistics improved for the team with no opposing team scoring more than three goals on the Panthers, and the Panthers kicked off the season with a tie against Lake Central High School who beat the panthers 8-0 in the 2014 season.

At the end of the season, the Panthers lost seven seniors, and coach Wally Kudyba announced his retirement from coaching. "It was upsetting to hear that my coach for the past three years wouldn't be coming back," said junior Melanie Vera.

In a huddle, the Lady Panthers have a talk at half time. "During half time we are very supportive, give compliments, and also constructive criticism depending on how the game is going," said freshman Anastasia Hernandez

Before the game at Hobart High School, senior Marissa Perez smiles with her teammates. "This team is a second family to me. I love them all and wouldn't trade them for anything. Our bond is so strong, it's amazing," said Perez.

Sisters, junior Megan Miller and freshman Macie Miller, take charge on the soccer field. "It was the first time in years with us playing on the same team. I was really proud of how well she did her first high school season," said Megan.

Melanie Turner, 12

Megan Mann, 12

Eva Solis, 12

Breanna Hamilton, 11

Daniella Ayala, 12

Varsity

Row 1: Gardenia Gonzalez, Marissa Perez, Melanie Turner, Bridget Beck, Lilyana Salazar, Melanie Vera, Megan Miller
Row 2: Aary Cano, Macie Miller, Mariah Fowler, Kira Lisle, Eva Solis, Breanna Hamilton, Daniella Ayala, Michelle Beck
Row 3: Don Curtis, Marrissa Walter, Bella Maglish, Wally Kudyba, Megan Mann, Rachel Kruhaj, Glenn Maglish

Junior Varsity

Row 1: Tyra Gonzalez, Anabel Castellanos, Marrissa Walter, Anastasia Hernandez, Gardenia Gonzalez
Row 2: Melanie Vera, Macie Miller, Veronica Matthews, Hannah Ramirez, Aary Cano, Diana Muro
Row 3: Wally Kudyba, Kira Lisle, Don Curtis, Nina Stosic, Glenn Maglish

Opponent:	Score:
Lake Central	2-2
Hobart	**6-1**
Hanover	**8-0**
Andrean	**3-1**
Wheeler	**4-0**
Munster	0-1
K.V.	0-2
Highland	**3-1**
Lowell	**3-0**
Gavit	**9-0**
Morton	**6-0**
Kouts	**6-0**
Chesterton	0-1
Sectionals:	
Highland	2-3

Final Record:
9-4-1

Varsity

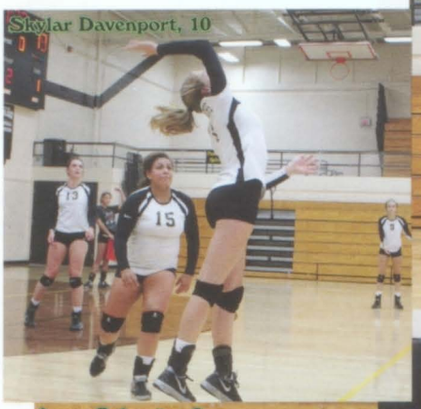
Row 1: Abigail Strauch, Jennie Stas, Sierra Slaven, Max Carroll
Row 2: Leah Dye, Skylar Davenport, Erica Ward
Row 3: Bethany Brucer, Erica Kik, Megan Madrigal, Victoria Perez

Junior Varsity

Row 1: Lilly Jeffers, Leah Dye, Sierra Slaven, Avery Seberger, Max Carroll
Row 2: Katelyn Leslie, Skylar Davenport, Allison Biancardi, Ali Schoon
Row 3: Brittany Shelley, Haley Dixon, Jenna Brown, Victoria Perez

Freshmen

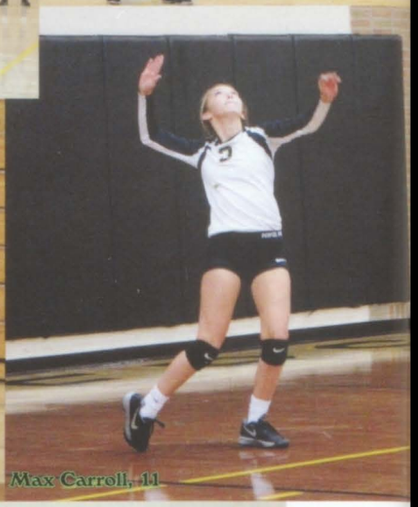
Row 1: Lena Mansour, Taylor Hill
Row 2: Vanessa Bullion, Christina Ahlquist, Avery Seberger
Row 3: Mackenzie Olsen , Haley Dixon, Jenna Brown, Abbegael Piunti



Skylar Davenport, 10

Jenna Brown, 9

Avery Seberger, 9



Max Carroll, 11

JV Volleyball

Opponent:	Score:
Merrillville	0-3
East Chicago	**3-0**
Lowell	0-3
Hammond	1-4
Munster	0-3
Andrean	0-3
Hobart	0-3
Kankakee Valley	0-3
Morton	**3-0**
Highland	0-3
Kankakee Valley	1-3
Bishop Noll	0-3
Lowell	0-3
Hanover	0-3
Muster	0-3
Andrean	0-3
Gavit	**3-0**
Hobart	0-3
Highland	0-3
Sectionals:	
Gavit	**3-0**
Clark	**3-0**
Kankakee Valley	0-3

Final Record: 5-17

Block This

The team had a very rough start at the beginning of the season, but it came out at the end with a close win for the sectional championship against Kankakee Valley. The team focused on improvement for the entire season.

Volleyball season began towards the end of April 2015 with conditioning right after school ,two days a week, and continued on throughout the summer. The girls went into the weight room, ran bleachers, and worked on the fundamentals of the game. "Summer conditioning helped me become a better player and it got me ready for our games," said freshman Lena Mansour. After try-outs occurred at the end of July the girls practiced everyday after school from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the high school field house. During practices, the team worked on their serving, serve receive, and perfect passes.

Before every game, the girls would huddle together and pump each other up and then discuss the game plan. The coaches would give positive thoughts about the game and gave the girls a pep talk before they headed out onto the court.

The team had all returning coaches, Megan Bence for freshmen, Kym Roberts for junior varsity, and Danielle Burge for varsity. "The coaches were so great as far as helping me out individually, especially since I broke my arm a few games in. I wouldn't have improved and gotten back into the season without them," said junior Abbie Strauch.

There was a total of three teams this year; freshmen, junior varsity, and varsity. The biggest part of being on the freshmen team was getting to know all the girls they would be playing with for the next few years.

The season came to a final close when the school held their annual Fall Athletic Sports Awards night which fell on Wednesday, November 4, 2015. The coaches each went up and talked about how the girls worked together and how their season went. Awards that were handed out for each team were most improved, best mental attitude, and most valuable player.

"Volleyball was the one thing I looked forward to at the end of the school day, and this season will be hard to beat for me. I made so many more friends and I really came out of my shell for my freshman year," said freshman Christina Ahlquist.

The varsity team joins in the center of the court to celebrate after a point was earned. "The team huddles make me pumped for the remainder of the game and it helps gives us a family feel," said sophomore Leah Dye.

Reaching as high as possible, freshman Vanessa Bullion spikes the ball for the warm-up before her game. "Learning how to hit the ball correctly was the best part of volleyball because it helped me improve," said Bullion.

While concentrating on getting the perfect set for the middle hitter, junior Megan Madrigal, sophomore Jennie Stas focuses and sets the ball up for her. "As the setter, my main job is to get every second ball to my hitters," said Stas.

Pain Is Gain

Cross country began their journey of the season at the end of June. The team met at Oak Ridge Prairie everyday and practiced for several hours increasing their endurance. The team ran 3.1 miles each meet over hills and around lakes.

The team number was smaller this year than the size of past years, but this didn't stop the team from bonding and soon became a family. Cross country had three seniors, which ended to be a good thing meaning they did not suffer a big lost at the end of the season. The team bonded not only at meets and practices, but also at pasta nights. Pasta night was where the whole team met at one of the runners' house and ate as much pasta and dessert as they could.

The team was coached by Shannon Scheidel, head of the FACS Department. Scheidel herself ran when she was younger and it was her coach that encouraged her to become a coach and a teacher. "I've learned to listen to my runners and be supportive of them in anyway I can, My favorite part of coaching is seeing my team bond and improve," said Scheidel.

The team is divided up into three levels: level one, two, and three helped her coordinate different types of workout and runs for each of the levels. The team went into the weight room and worked out their leg muscles, their core, and improved their time and breathing. "People should run because it's healthy and it's gets you in shape for sports. The hardest thing about running is you're sore at the start of the season, but in the end it's worth it," said Scheidel.

To be able to participate on the team you must have a 2.5. "You have to focus in order to become a good runner and train hard. Also, you have to learn how to balance school and cross country. My biggest inspiration is Thomas Perez, because he does four sports while managing school too," said sophomore Maegan Perkovich.

The team was always searching for new runners. They want to increase their team size in upcoming seasons to possibly have more state qualifiers. They mostly aimed at incoming freshmen to join the team. Scheidel also coached the track team and tried to recruit members from her track team to join the cross country team in the next season.

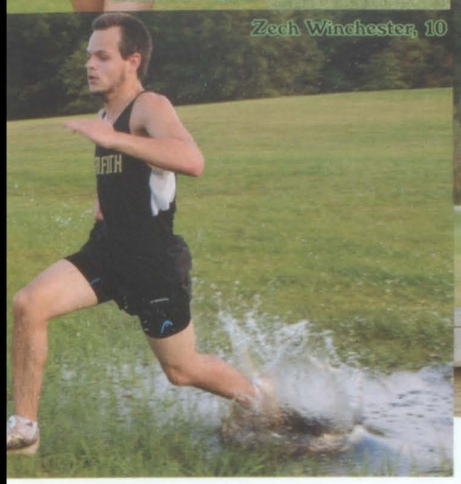
Running at the Highland meet, Junior Dara Meece paces herself. She has been running since her freshman year. "Since the team was so small, we bonded quite a bit and developed inside jokes. I don't know what I'd do without them," said Meece.

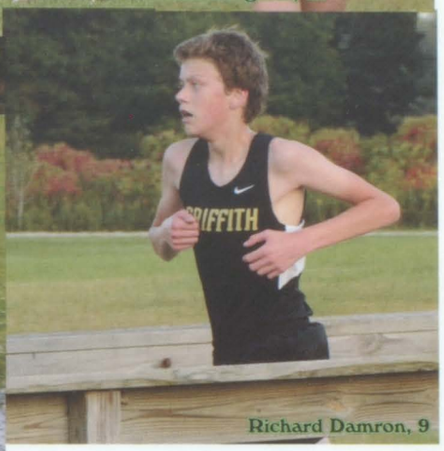
As the girl's cross country team runs at the Highland meet, senior Alex Leon makes the most our of her final season on the team. "I'm glad to have spent my senior year with such determined, tough, and hard-working runners," said Leon.

Leslie Leon, 10

Boys Cross Country

Alex Longoria, 12


Zech Winchester, 10


Richard Damron, 9

Player Profile

Trinity Austin,10

"My best time is 19:06 and my favorite race to run is a 5k," said sophomore Trinity Austin. She has been running for five years in total and this year she made it to state, placing 15th at semi-state and 50th at state. Austin began running because she enjoys the sport. "I do well at cross country and track; it's good for your body and mind," said Austin. Austin said she wants to run in college, she plans on running until she can't anymore. Austin also is very fond of her coach. "Ms. Scheidel is amazing and will help you in anything you do," said Austin.

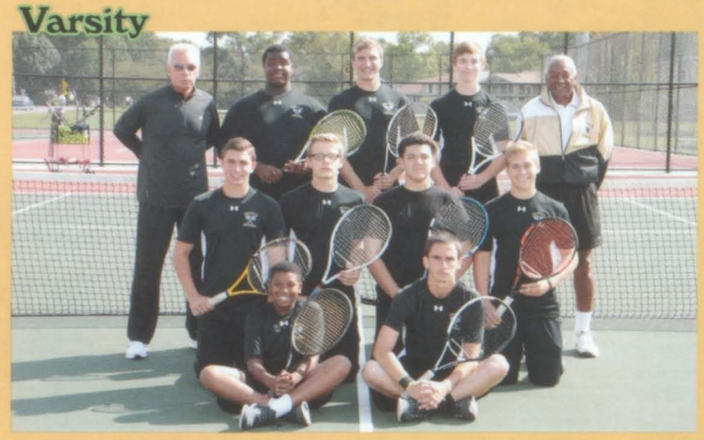
Varsity

Row 1: Taporia Brown, Leslie Leon, Alex Leon, Trinity Austin
Row 2: Dara Meece, Andrew Garcia, Thomas Perez, Alex Longoria, Zack Keil
Row 3: Matthew Plopper, Richard Damron, Matthew Thomas, Shannon Scheidel

Opponent:	Score:	
	Boys:	**Girls:**
Gavit Invite	15th	8th
NCC Conference	7th	5th
ECC	**1st**	**1st**
Bob Thomas Invite	19th	10th
Morton	2nd	**1st**
Highland Invite	10th	6th
NCC	7th	4th
Sectionals:	7th	4th
Regionals:	Thomas Perez 44th Zach Keil 8th	
Semi State:	Trinity Austin 15th	

State Qualifier:
Trinity Austin 50th

Varsity



Row 1: Craig Gordon, Greg Copp
Row 2: Brian Brzycki, Connor Pascoe, Xavier Romero, Jacob Adams
Row 3: Gary Hayes, Gio Posley, Josh Zoran, Nathan Vuckovich, Joe White

Opponent:	Score:
Calumet	**5-0**
Wheeler	**5-0**
Portage	2-3
Calumet	**5-0**
E.C. Central	**5-0**
Lake Station	**5-0**
Highland	0-5
Kankakee Valley	**5-0**
Lowell	2-3
Andrean	**4-1**
Hobart	**3-2**
Morton	**5-0**
Munster	0-5
Bishop Noll	**5-0**
Gavit	**5-0**
River Forest	**5-0**
Sectionals:	
Calumet	**5-0**
Munster	0-5

Final Record: 13-5

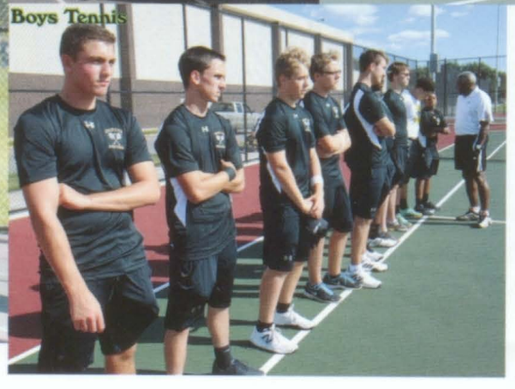
For the past three years, seniors Nathan Vuckovich and Gio Posley have played doubles together. "It was really great to play with Gio every year. We worked together really well and I'll miss playing with him," said Vuckovich.

Nathan Vuckovich, 12

Gio Posley, 12

Brian Brzycki, 12

Connor Pascoe, 12



Boys Tennis

Get Served

For the past two seasons, the boys' tennis team has gone through some major changes. This season, however, proved to be a turning point for the boys' tennis organization because they matched their 2014 record of 13-4 in the 2015 season. As a season overview, the tennis team won with a score of 5-0 against Calumet, Wheeler, E.C. Central, Lake Station, Kankakee Valley, Morton, Bishop Noll, Gavit, and River Forest High School.

One of the largest changes that the team endured this year was the new coaching staff. The team was managed and coached by Gary Hayes and Joe White. Hayes has coached the Griffith basketball team for the past two years. White was also the new coach for the girl's tennis team that played in the spring.

The team was made up of predominately seniors, which meant they had to recruit boys for the years to come. Out of a team of nine boys, seven of the players were graduating seniors.

"Having a team of seniors is scary because we don't know how next year's team is going to turn out or how many people will try out next season. We were lucky to have them though because they taught us a lot about a new sport. I learned a lot this year and I can't wait to come back next year," said sophomore Xavier Romero.

This year, tennis conditioning started during the summer with practices from 8-10 in the mornings. There were also days that they had two-a-days. This meant that they had an early morning practice followed by a practice from 3-5 in the afternoon.

"Having two-a-days was exhausting at times because it took up a lot of your time. It was fun at times, too, because it helped us bond and become a better team in the end," said freshman Craig Gordon.

During sectionals, the team came together and beat Calumet High School with a score of 5-0. They also faced Munster High School and took an unfortunate loss to them with a score of 0-5, which ended their season.

Throughout the changes and hard work, the boys pulled through and had a season record of 13-5. While they still had such good a season, the coaches are excited for next year. "Although we won't have our seniors on the team, I'm still hopeful for the best next year and for the years after that," said coach Gary Hayes.

Before their match, senior Connor Pascoe makes the most of his last year and leads the team meeting. "I learned a lot from the coaches and I felt that if we had a few more years we would have a phenomenal tennis program at the G," said Pascoe.

Serving the ball to his opponent, senior Jacob Adams swings his racket and always keeps his head in the match. "I've played singles for two years now and I like it a lot more than doubles. I've also improved a lot, too," said Adams.

Senior Bio

Greg Copp

For the past three years of high school, senior Greg Copp has been playing singles on boys tennis. "I started playing tennis when I was a sophomore. It's helped me make some of my best friends," said Copp. Over the past three years, Copp said that he's improved greatly. "I've made a lot of improvements since I first started with tennis and it proves that hard work pays off," said Copp. Despite the changes that the team has gone through, Copp said that he will always be thankful for the team and the memories he has made.

Swinging for Greatness

Golf may not include running one's hardest down the field, jumping up to spike a ball over the net, or tackling an opponent, but it does require hard work and dedication. Just as other sports, the golf team had winter conditioning that started after winter break. In the summer, practices started right after the Fourth of July and meets followed shortly after that. Once school was in session, the girls practiced everyday at Sherwood until 5 p.m.

Their home meets took place at Sherwood. The girls also traveled to Hobart, Lake Central, and Munster for their away meets. With meets and practices a few times a week, the girls stayed busy and focused most of their time on the sport. They also had big tournaments on the weekends. Their season lasted from the middle of July to early October.

Unfortunately, the girl's team's numbers were much smaller this year than in the past years. With this fact, the girls tried their hardest to move their record up to where they wanted it to be. With a few new freshman members this year, the girls' golf team hopes for a better outcome next year and will continue to work on their swings and putting, even in the offseason.

The newest members to the team were freshmen Maddie Nolan and Kirsten Edwards, along with sophomore Courtney Smith. All three girls had never played golf prior to this season. Golfing was a whole new experience for the three girls, but their fellow teammates and their coach were very welcoming and friendly.

Like most teams, the girls golf team had team bonding a few times throughout the year. The bonding mainly took place at sophomore Courtney Smith's house.

Having a small amount of players is typical for the golf team, adding one extra player since 2014. Most of the girls were upperclassmen, so they have graduated and left the team with very few girls. However, the underclassmen have joined and they plan on keeping the golf team together. "I was concerned that the golf team would be cut because of the lack of people participating, but I am so thankful it wasn't. With no graduating seniors this year, we won't be losing any players to graduation, and hopefully the next freshman class will bring on more people, too. I'm looking forward to coaching these girls next year and seeing how they improve," said coach Mike Worosz.

Varsity

Row 1: Kylie Maloney, Kirsten Edwards, Courtney Smith
Row 2: Mike Worosz, Angelika Rodriguez, Maddie Nolan, Heather Steele

Opponent:	Score:
Highland	268-204
Lake Central Invite	523
Hobart Invite	**45**
Lowell/Munster	248-246-184
Kankakee Valley Invite	512
Calumet	**240-INC.**
Hanover Central/Calumet	236-237-143
Kankakee Valley/Hobart	248-192-238
North Newton	244-216
Andrean	239-196
NCC Tournament	471
Sectionals:	
IHSAA Sectionals	517

Final Record: 2-10

Coach Mike Worosz gives advice to junior Heather Steele before her match. "Mr. Worosz really gives me the confidence to do well during my meets. He's very positive even when any of us mess up and that is a good quality for a coach," said Steele.

Why Golf?

"I chose golf because I wanted to try something new. I've done other sports before that I never enjoyed, but when I started playing golf I got into it. I love my teammates and Mr. Worosz is an awesome coach. I'm glad that I tried this new sport because I finally found a sport that I genuinely love."

Angelika Rodriguez, 10

"I used to play soccer, but right before high school season started, my knees got really bad. So, I decided to give golf a shot. I ended up really enjoying it even though I wasn't the best. It's funny because I wound up getting tendinitis in my wrist and in my hand so I had to miss the majority of the meets towards the end of the season."

Maddie Nolan, 9

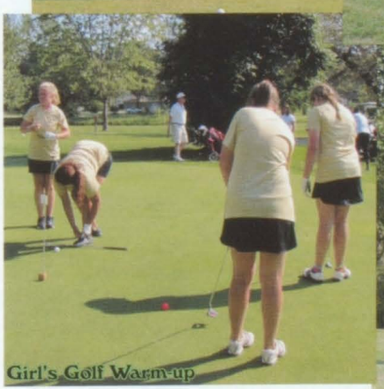
"I joined the girls' golf team because I wasn't busy with my other sports during that time and I really wanted to see how it would go. I really enjoy it and I'm hoping it could help my future. I might want to play in a more competitive scene when I get older so being on the team now is really important to get my skills up to par."

Kirsten Edwards, 9

Girls Golf Team

Kirsten Edwards, 9

Courtney Smith, 10



Girl's Golf Warm-up

Angelika Rodriguez, 10

Before the meet starts, the girls calm themselves down before they have to perform. "I have to try to ignore my nerves so I don't mess up. My teammates are really helpful with calming me down," said sophomore Courtney Smith.

With determination, sophomore Kylie Maloney takes a swing in hopes of getting the ball into the hole. "In golf, don't focus on your opponent, you're playing against yourself. It's key to try and better your own score," said Maloney.

Freshmen

While in English, freshmen Aaron Gonzalez and Chyanne Skarzynski work in their vocab book. "My favorite part of English is working on vocab and studying for tests. I also enjoy working in groups because I can be social," said Gonzalez.

Did You Know?

"I came to Griffith in August from Leon, Mexico. I began the school year here and I enjoy the different atmosphere. I've always wanted to do the program and come to the United States. This was the first time I got to experience the cold weather and snow. At first, I enjoyed the snow but then I started to think it was annoying because I am used to the warm weather in Mexico. In Leon, the weather is always warm and we have school outdoors. I am glad I was able to come here and be in a smaller town and interact with friendly people."

Varenka Sabag, 9

"When I was five-years-old, I came to the United States from Jordan. My family wanted to move to the U.S. because there were better opportunities over here and more job availability. I was upset at first because it was difficult leaving my family going to a foreign country. I also didn't speak any English. Once I began school here at Griffith, I took speech classes to practice English. It took me between one to two years to speak English fluently. I miss the warm weather and seeing all of my family, but I am glad I was able to come here."

Reta Haddad, 9

Marixa Acevedo
Christina Ahlquist
Christopher Albanese
Jaz'Myne Alvarez
Brianna Anderson
Diamond Arthur

Lauren Atkinson
Marwa Awwad
Ryan Bakker
Jarriz Baldauf
Krystian Ball
Madalyn Banhart

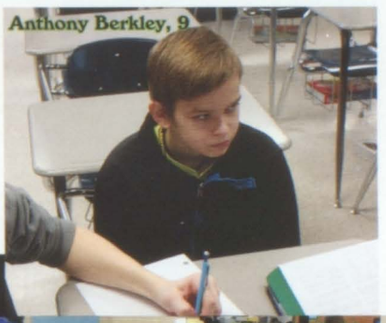
Tierra Bankhead
Rhiannon Banks
Alejandro Barriga
Anthony Berkley
Taylor Bliss
Victoria Bolden

Paige Borowski
Makayla Boswinkle
Andrew Braddy
Zachary Breeden
DaJon Brocks
Laricco Brooks

Devin Brown
Jenna Brown
Londyn Buck
Vanessa Bullion
Victoria Burgess-Giles
Delorean Butler

Aaryana Cano
William Carroll
Anabel Castellanos
Cole Cervantes
Darius Cheairs
Kaelynn Church

Nina Cima de Villa
Jacob Collins
Jayden Damron
Richard Damron

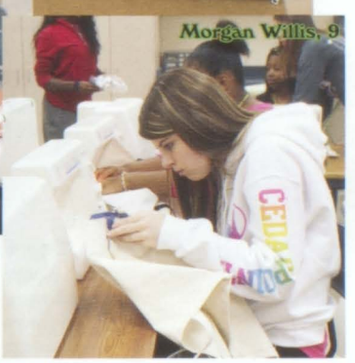


Anthony Berkley, 9

Makayla Boswinkle, 9

Victoria Bolden, 9

Delorean Butler, 9 & Evan Jones, 9



Morgan Willis, 9

Eating lunch, freshmen Kamryn Pulliam and Mariah Huesken discuss their days. "My favorite part of the day is lunch because I'm able to hang out with friends. However, I do wish that lunch was longer so we'd have more time to eat," said Pulliam.

Ten Years Later...

Haley Greep, 9

"I will hopefully be graduating from Standford or Yale, and on my way to pursuing a career in the medical field. Once I leave Indiana, I do not plan on coming back, except to see my family. I want to explore the world and live a life full of excitement. Once I finish medical school, I plan on continuing my education to become a surgeon, and when my career is set, I want to start a family and settle down."

Scott Lesczynski, 9

"Ten years down the line, I plan on continuing my athletic career in soccer, playing at either Duke or Notre Dame. I then plan on becoming apart of the Men's Professional Team. I want to get a scholarship in high school to play soccer. Not only do I plan on doing great in soccer, I plan on getting good grades in college, and not just focusing on soccer. I want to make a lot of money doing something that I love."

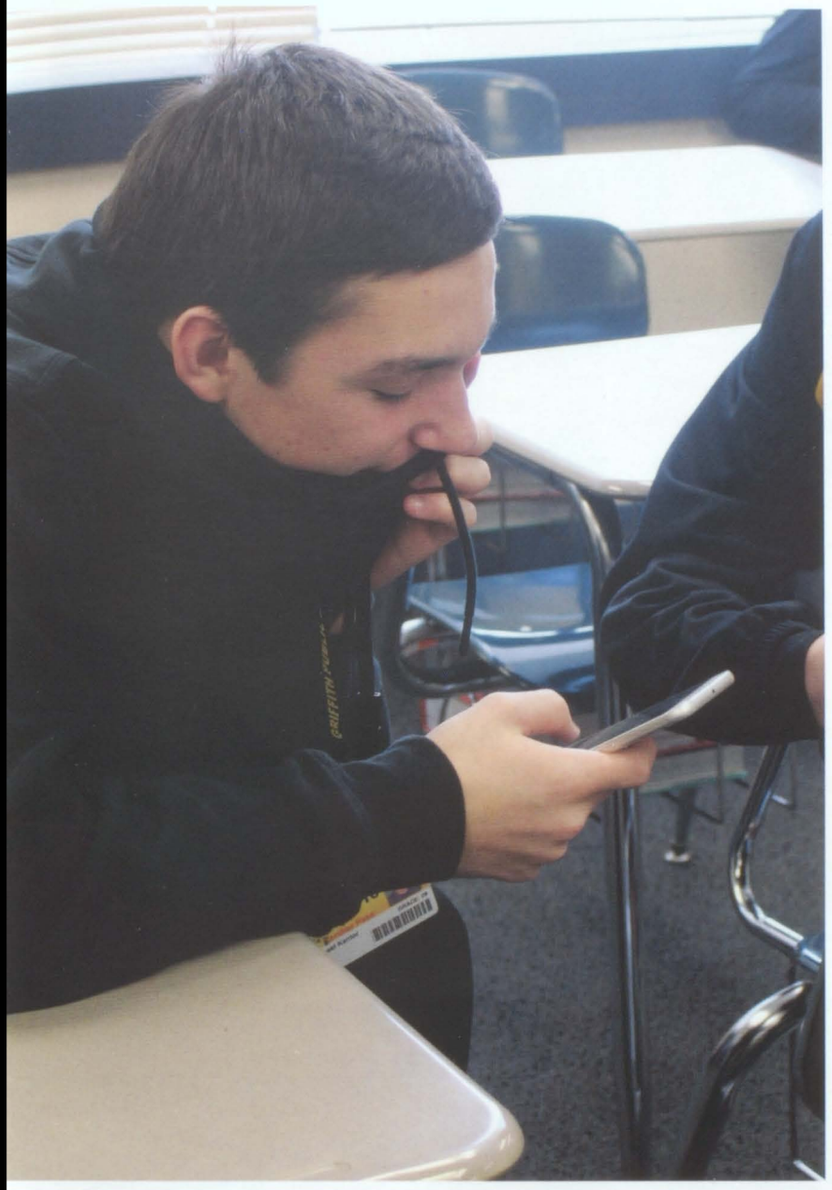
Incoming freshmen were able to take a variety of new FACS classes and freshman Kayla Smith did just that. "I took textiles first semester because I wanted to learn how to sew and the class taught me a lot," said Smith.

Andrew Davenport
Steven Davies
Damian Davila
Beyonce Davis
Makenzie Degand-McKinney
Zoe Dieguez

Matthew Dildine
Haley Dixon
Philip Drozd
Serena Duran
Kirsten Edwards
Ethan Farrell

Elijah Faulkner
Alante' Fortier
Andrew Garcia
Cassandra Garcia
Micalette Garcia
Nicholas Garner

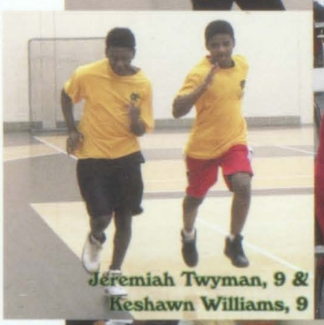
Anthony Garnica
Juan Gomez
Aaron Gonzalez
Tyra Gonzalez
Zachary Goodman
Craig Gordon



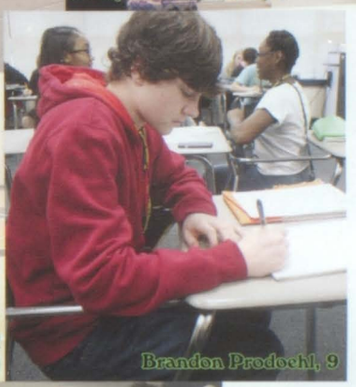
While sneaking his phone in class to play a quick game of Madden Football Mobile, freshman Mikey Kantor plans his next moves. "I rarely go on my phone for social media. I usually just play games against my friends in the class," said Kantor.

Logan Whitehead, 9

Jaedynn Williamson, 9



Jeremiah Twyman, 9 & Keshawn Williams, 9



Brandon Prodoehl, 9

Mason Phillips, 9

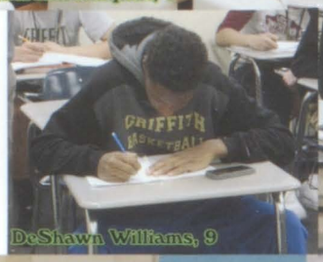
Allexyss Green
Haley Greep
Trinity Guider
Jasmine Gutierrez
Reta Haddad
Amanda Haley

Joshua Hall
Tianna Harris
Emily Henley
Anastasia Hernandez
Taylor Hill
Edward Hintz

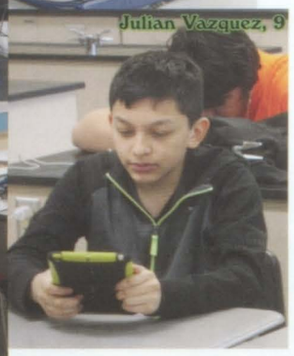
Alexis Hogan
Christian Holley
Brianna Hoskins
Mariah Huesken

Christina Ahlquist, 9

Garrett Sandefur, 9

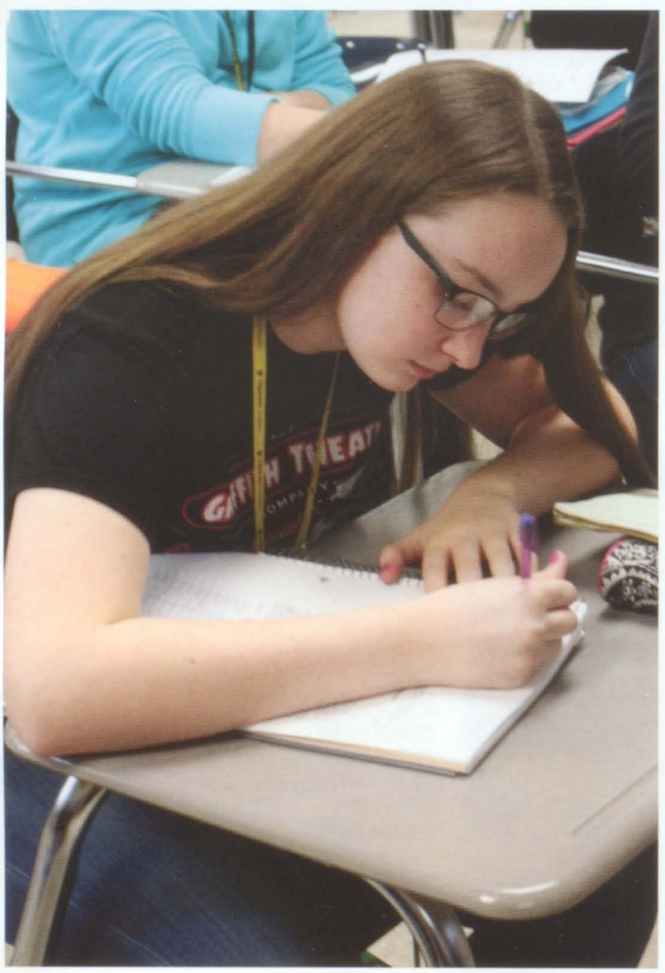


DeShawn Williams, 9



Julian Vazquez, 9

Joenathan King, 9



While in Julie Wencloff's Biology class, freshman Maddie Nolan takes notes about Mitosis. "I love learning about Biology because Mrs. Wencloff makes things very interesting and she has a very exciting way of teaching," said Nolan.

Taccara Hughes
Mason Isenblatter
Samih Issa

Kyle Iwinski
Madison Janowski
Alison Johnson

Ernest Johnson
Jayla Johnson
Jordyn Johnson

Jalyn Jones
Robert Jones
Emily Judge

Michael Kantor
Alexis Kellum
Joenathan King

Benjamin Ladendorf
Anthony Lane
Jordan Langel

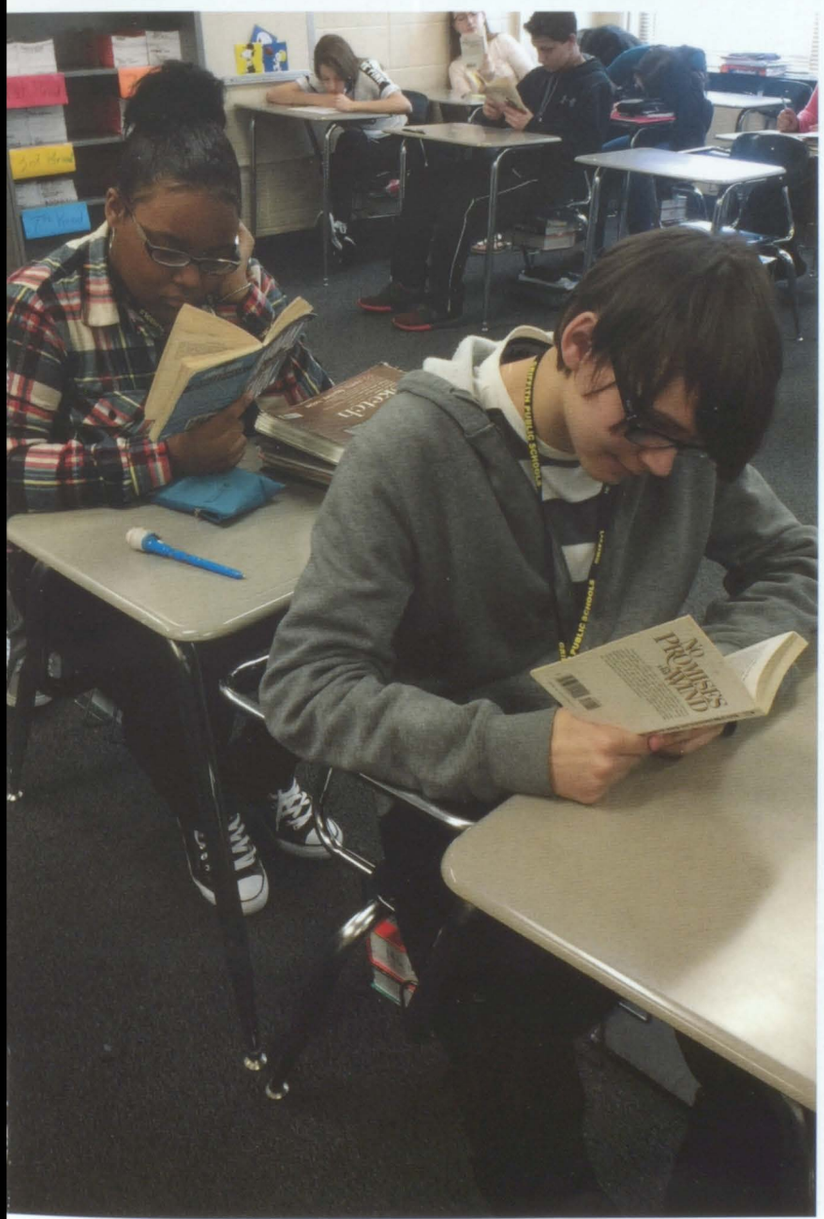
Timothy Lawson
Aaliyah Lee
Scott Lesczynski

Stephanie Lester
Christina Li
Jared Lisle

Julianne Long
Kaylen Long
Kyla Long
Ciara Lopez
Erin Lopez
Mateo Lopez

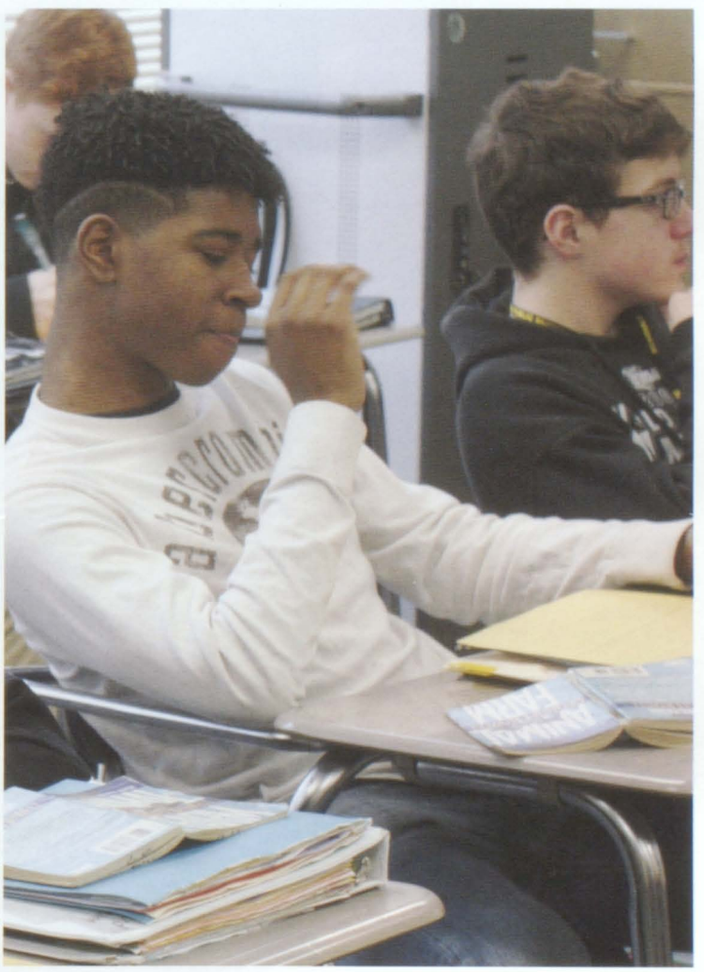
Jeremiah LuVert
Curtis Mackenthun
Luis Maldonado
Lena Mansour
RJ Martin
Victoria Martinez

Jonathon Maynard
Nicole McCarter
Jacob Metz
Enrique Miles



Reading *No Promises in the Wind*, freshmen Kayla Smith and Zach Goodman sit in Carl Dunlap's English class. "It was a pretty good book and doing the review packet helped me prepare for the test. I would recommend it," said Smith.

In Carl Dunlap's third period English class, freshmen Matthew Peterson and Deangelo Steward listen to Dunlap discuss a book in class. "*Animal Farm* is an interesting book to read and I enjoy reading it," said Peterson.



Sayvion Miles
Macie Miller
Molly Mills
Aaron Mitchell
Amelia Mitchell
Dynahstee Moore

Jasmine Moore
Samuel Morales
Brian Muro
Diana Muro
Stephon Murphy
Madalyn Nolan

Cade O'Brien
David O'Brien
Tyler Oldendorf
Mackenzie Olsen
Grace Opinker
Trinity Page

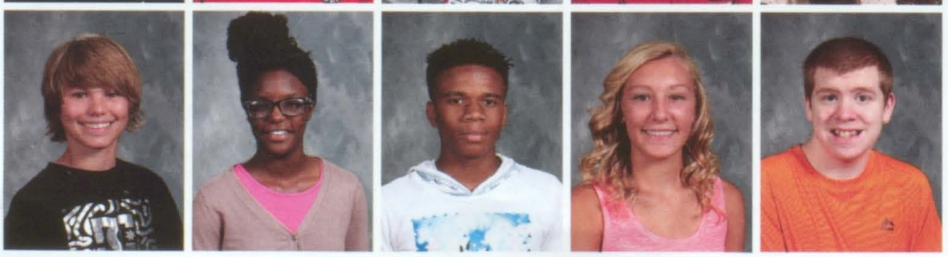
Vanessa Pena
Jalyn Perry-Bell
Joshua Peterson
Matthew Peterson
Abbegael Piunti
Matthew Plopper

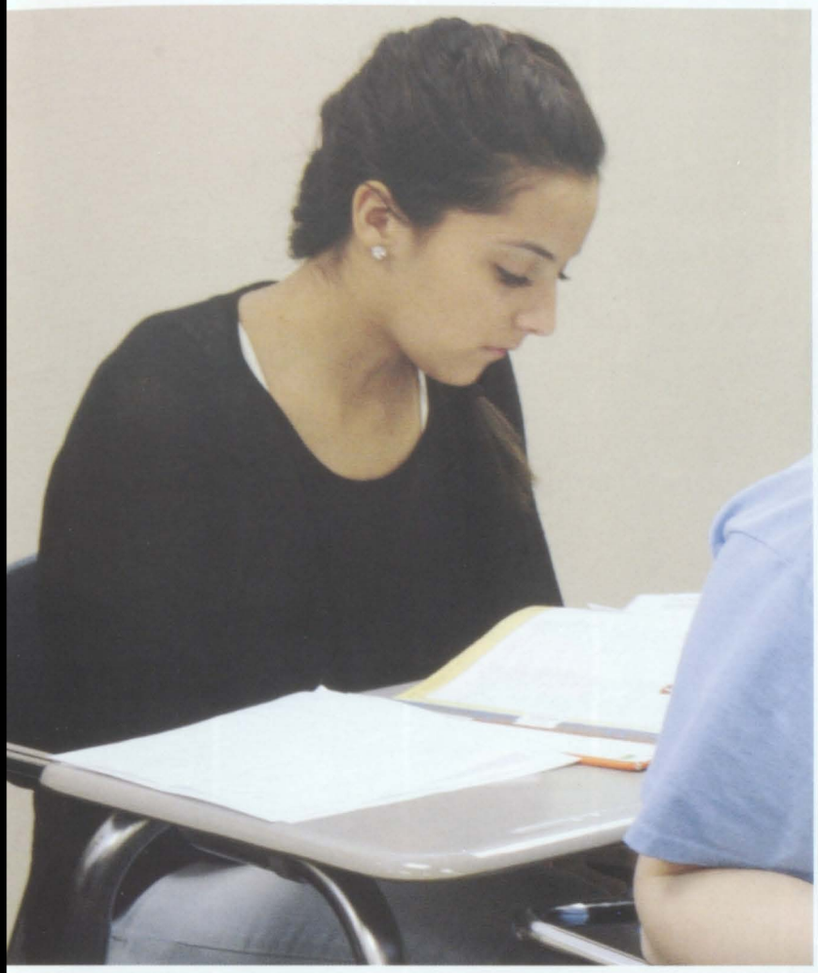
Brandon Prodoehl
Gabriel Pulido
Kamryn Pulliam
Brianna Quintana
Christian Raglin
Christina Ramirez

Nicolas Ramirez
Brooke Rassel
Rabekka Rex
James Roberts
Tyler Robertson
DayJah Robinson

Giovonne Robinson
Xavier Robinson
Salim Rojas
Benjamin Rutherford
Varenka Sabag
Diego Sanchez

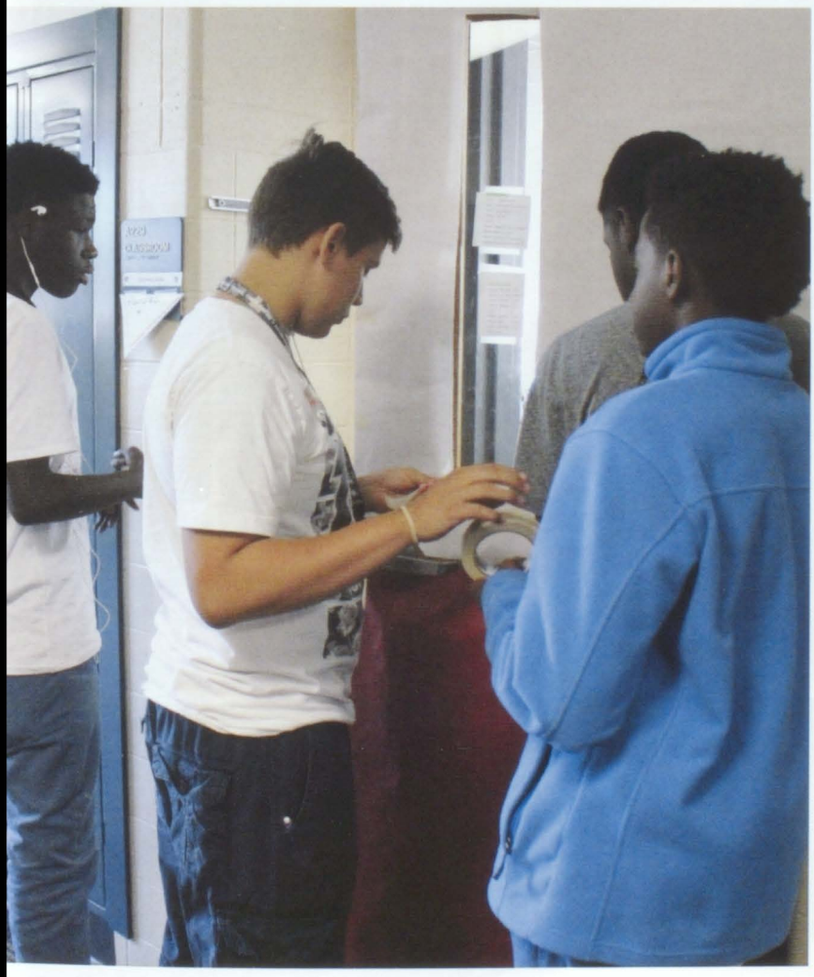
John Sandefur
Jessica Sanders
Triston Sanders
Avery Seberger
Nicholas Sharp





While in Carl Dunlap's class, freshman Serena Duran works on homework during her free time so that she doesn't fall behind. "I was working on my English homework so I wouldn't have to stress about it when I got home," said Duran.

During Karen Vondrak's Spanish class, freshman Drew Davenport works on a Spanish project while using the book to help him with it. "I wanted to hurry up and get it done so I wouldn't have too much to do at home," said Davenport.



In April Miller's home room Panther time class, freshmen Luis Maldanado and Savion Miles help decorate the door for college go week. "We were talking about what college we should do and we chose Ohio State," said Miles.

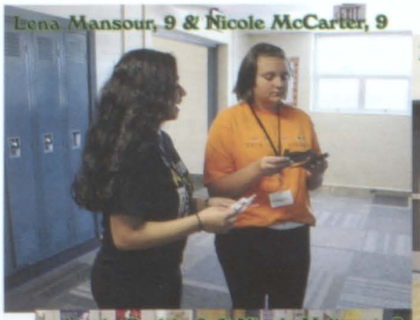
Then and Now

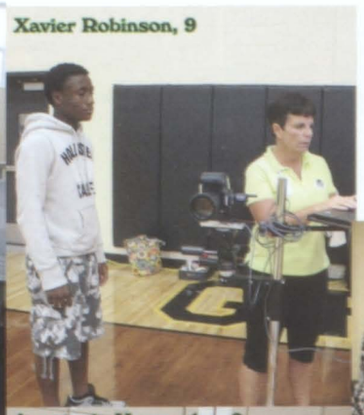
"At the beginning of freshman year I was a little scared and nervous, but now that I've experienced what it's like, there's nothing to be scared of. I got to experience it with my friends who helped me through it. The teachers were a big part of my education, because without them we wouldn't have the knowledge that we do now. Freshman year was an exciting and a new experience for me. I can't wait to see what the rest of my high school years will be like and what else it will bring me."

Nina Stosic, 9

"At first I thought that it would be hard to be a freshman because you're no longer the big kid anymore. It feels like your starting all over to get back to the top where we used to be in eighth grade. You're not used to seeing the hallways crowded or seeing all of the bigger kids getting in my way because we didn't worry about anything like that in middle school. Now that I've gotten to experience what my freshman year was like, it's more easy going for me. I can't wait to be an upperclassmen."

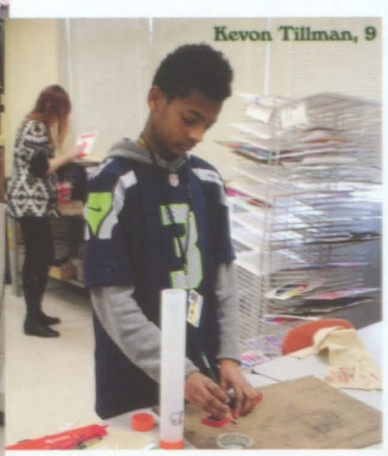
Jalyn Perry-Bell, 9


Lena Mansour, 9 & Nicole McCarter, 9

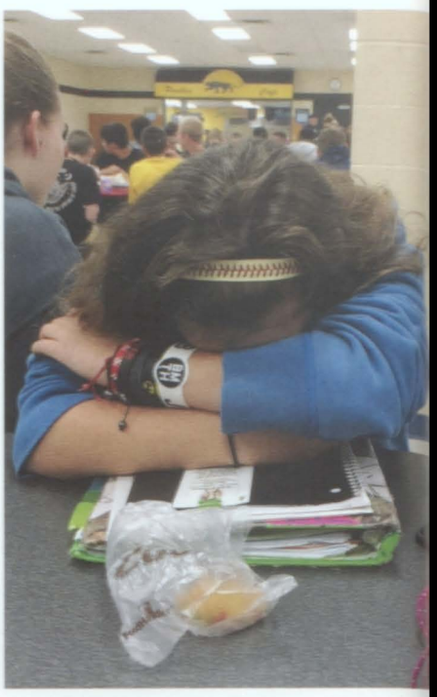

Xavier Robinson, 9

Alexia Smith, 9 & Nicole Valiquet, 9

Anastasia Hernandez, 9


Kevon Tillman, 9

Taking a quick nap at lunch, freshman Erin Lopez takes advantage of her free time. "I was so tired from going to a 'Bring Me the Horizon' concert the night before and did not get home until 2 a.m. I was exhausted that day," said Lopez.



Austin Shelton
Zoe Shumaker
Camryn Sinars
Chyanne Skarzynski
Ronald Skibinski
Alexia Smith

Danny Smith
Kayla Smith
Alejandro Sopher
Cameron Starks
De'Angelo Steward Lang
Marko Stosic

Nina Stosic
Kyleah Sturgill
Daanah Suboh
Maggie Swanson
Myles Taylor
Jessica Terzarial

Kevon Tillman
Ashley Trice
Cesar Valdez
Saul Valencia
Nicole Valiquet
Jonathon Vasilak

Julian Vazquez
John Vega
Michael Waite
Darea Warner
Kaleisha Washington
Micaela Weeks

Caitlin Whaley
Logan Whitehead
Raejean Whitehead
Demonie Whitehorn
Cody Wilkins
DeShawn Williams

Keshawn Williams
Kynide Williams
Jaedynn Williamson
Morgan Willis
Jamia Wilson
Michael Worosz

Anson Wright
James Wurst
Rayshon Young
Paige Zoran
Alec Zuklin

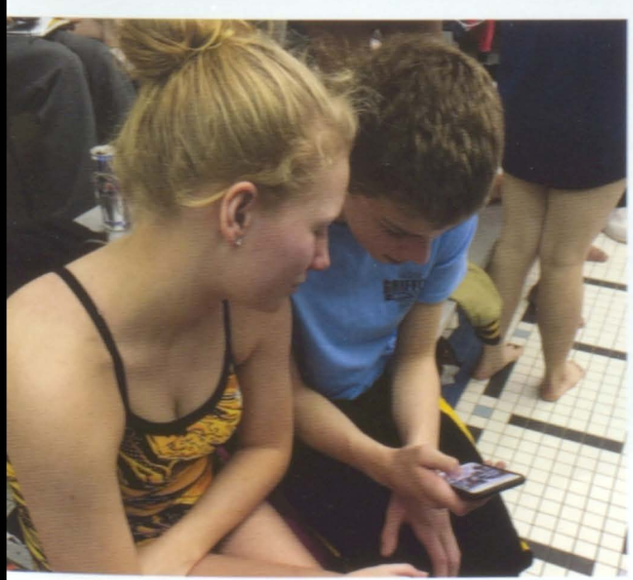
Freshman Fears

Ben Ladendorf, 9

"My biggest fear I had becoming a freshman was all the classes I was going to take. I was worried that the classes would be very hard for me and I didn't want to fail any of them. Failing classes would affect me playing sports which I'm excited about, and I've never failed a class before so I wanted to keep it that way."

Christina Li, 9

"The two fears I had becoming a freshman were learning new and harder things in my classes because I like getting good grades and I didn't want to fail. I was also worried about the new teachers I was going to have and that the teachers were going to be more strict than they were in middle school."



While at the Spaghetti Dinner, freshmen Bekka Rex and Paige Borowski met up to sit and eat together. "It was nice to be at the school having a good time with my friend and not having to worry about working," said Rex.

As the nerves start to kick in, freshman Macie Miller hangs out with teammate, freshman Richard Damron. "I had to wait for the other schools to warm up since we were the first to go, so I had down time to relax," said Miller.

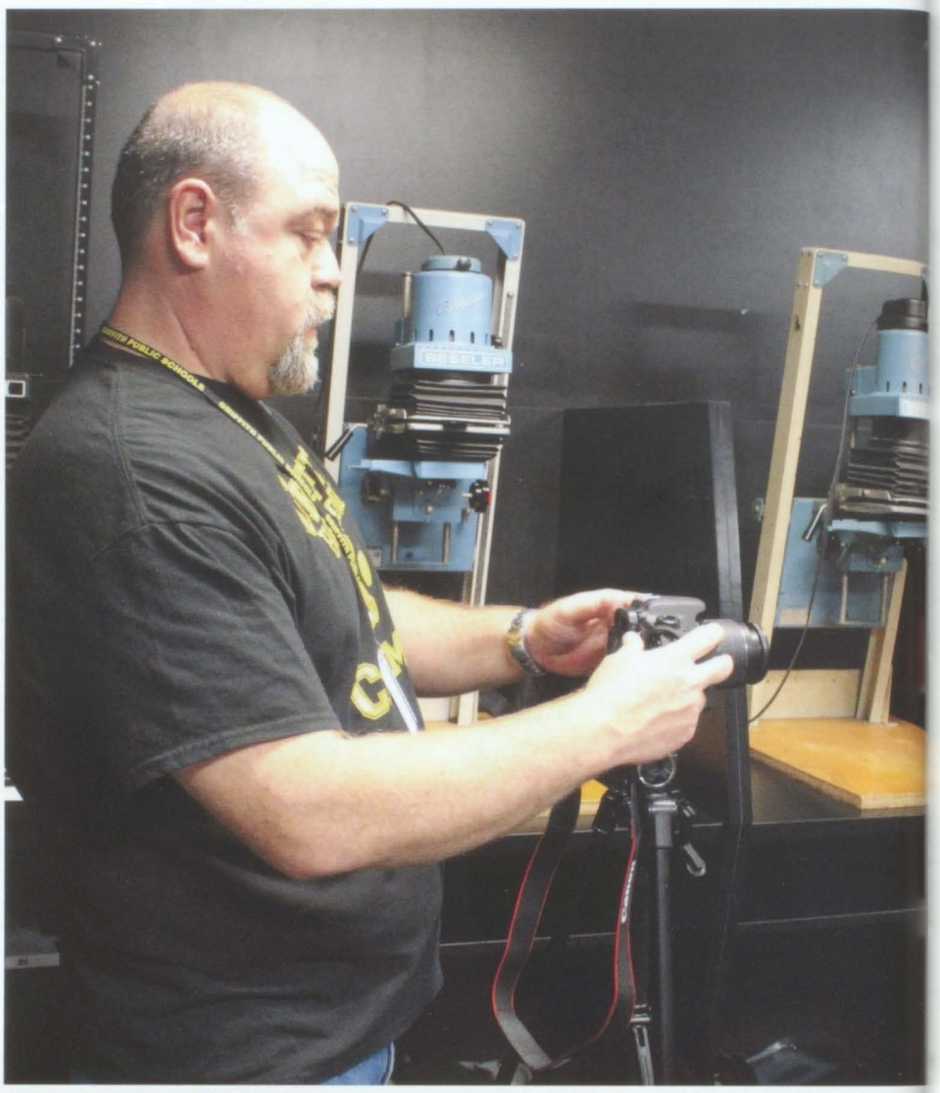
The Wisest of the Land

Newest of Them All

Jennifer Bullard teaches Biology I and life science. "Teaching at Griffith High School has been such a wonderful experience. I really enjoy teaching here and I am excited to be a part of the Panther team," said Bullard.

Tim McCoy is a first year teacher at Griffith and teaches geometry and algebra enrichment. He is also coaching girls' basketball. "I came here knowing that I could make a difference in the lives of kids struggling in math," said McCoy.

Cassandra Collins teaches English 11, English 12, and language lab. "I'm so excited to be teaching at Griffith. All the students have such great personalities and they make the job so enjoyable. I got really lucky," said Collins.



Demonstrating a photo assignment, Jim Graff, art department, shows his class how to "Paint with Light". "I got the idea from a photo involving Pablo Picasso and I thought it would be a great project for my photo students," said Graff.

Stacy Adams
Kathy Bakko
Jenna Berzy
Brenda Bonewits
Mike Brown
Jennifer Bullard
Mary Cahill

Jenna Candiano
Christine Chidichimo
Sarah Cohen
Kristina Collard
Melissa Diekelmann
Robby Dragomer
Michele Duffala

Carl Dunlap
Fred Farnell
James Ford
Ben Geffert
Peter Ghrist
Tom Golumbeck
Grayling Gordon

Jim Graff
Lorrainne Hageman
Georgina Hernandez
Lauren Januska
Brian Jennings
Cindy Jursic
Jennifer Kocon

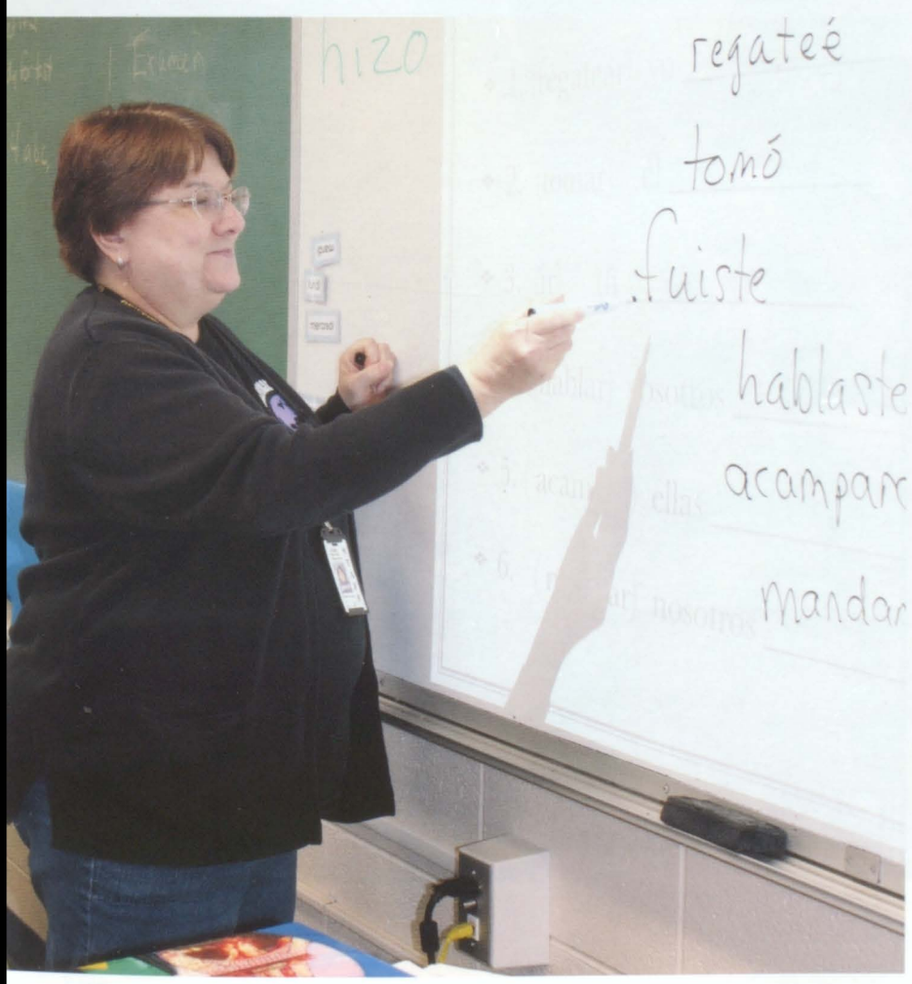
Debbie Korak
Cindy Leber
Cherisse Louderman
Amanda Madison
Tim McCoy
Keith Mitchell
Rich Morgan

Becky Najar
Nanette Naranjo
Theresa Neal
Sara Novak
Brian Orkis
Kay Orzechowicz
Jim Pickett

Luann Pramuk
Mark Reid
Margaret Rivera
Shannon Scheidel
Doug Sowash
Jody Tibbs
Mary Anne Tigner

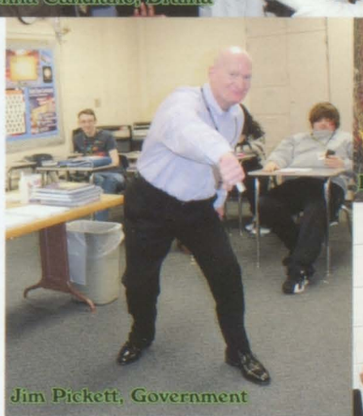
Michelle Udchitz
Sheila Vaclavik
Jane Villaroman
Julie Wencloff
Chris Wroblewski
Nick Zivanovic

Brian Orkis, Principal



Jenna Candiano, Drama

Peter Ghrist, Police Officer



Jim Pickett, Government

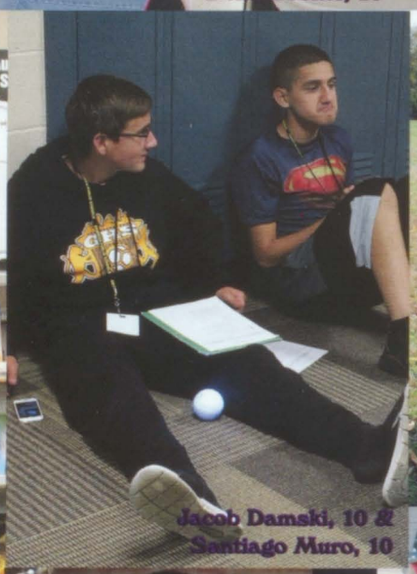
Ben Geffert, PE

While teaching Spanish II, Nanette Naranjo, foreign language department head, shows the class how to conjugate verbs. "I enjoy teaching Spanish and helping kids expand their knowledge in another language and culture," said Naranjo.

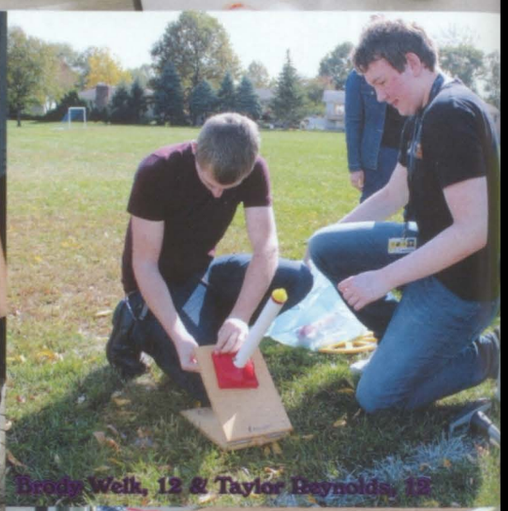
English Movie Night

Delia Booker, 10

Lily Maravilla, 12 & Abbey Dobosz, 11



Jacob Damski, 10 & Santiago Muro, 10

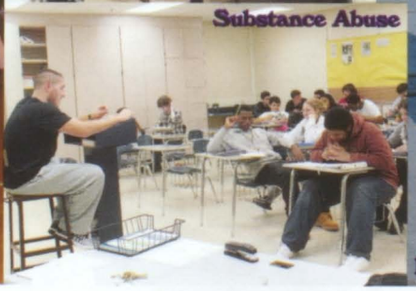


Brody Welk, 12 & Taylor Reynolds, 12

Dancing with the Panthers

Christian Holley, 9

Fire Drill



Substance Abuse

Chapter 2

With the conclusion of the first nine weeks, Griffith students continued to work through their classes and spend time after school at practices and meetings. Along with extra curricular activities, seniors focused on their academics in order to finalize their transcripts for college applications/scholarships and establish their class ranking, while the remainder of the school worked to gain credits and prepare for the years ahead. Another event that students faced at the end of the second quarter was the assessment of the semester finals in every subject. One special occurrence was the triple-fire-drill, on November 20th due to the trigger of smoke detectors in the cafeteria kitchen.

November kicked off with a five-day break from October 30th to November 3rd. Once school returned, students spent the next few weeks participating in fundraising events, drama productions, and sports conditioning. On Saturday, November 7th, FCCLA hosted the first "Dancing with the Panthers" in the field house from 3-7 p.m. After three weeks of fundraising and gathering donations for Riley's Children's Hospital, the members raised a total of $5,169 for the kids.

The next week, the drama department presented their "Addams Family" musical on November 13th, 14th, and 15th. The cast spent five or six hours a week rehearsing their parts in the auditorium in the weeks prior to the final production. The week prior to the musical, "The Addams Family" theme song played over the middle and high school intercom after the five minute bell rang. Also, posters created by Margaret Rivera's visual communications class decorated the hallways throughout the school, advertising the play. After the long nights during tech week and three performances, drama students returned to their normal schedules. "I love everything about drama. With the "Addams Family", we started out with a lot of new people that didn't know anyone, but all the hard work we put in made us bond as a family, and it was like we've known each other for years. I'm sad this was my last year, but that doesn't change the fact that not only did we put on a great show, but we changed some lives of the people involved. That's what we're about: giving people a home away from home," said senior Michael Hedrick, who played one of the ancestors.

The swim team also filled spots on the calendar with their open swim nights. Every other Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. during the month of October and some of November, the public was allowed to swim in the high school's pool for $5 a person with the swim team members as lifeguards.

Dressed up for the best buddies Halloween party, sophomore Ali Schoon takes a selfie with her buddy, Claire Guerselli. "This club is an opportunity to meet others that you normally wouldn't be close to. It makes me smile," said Schoon.

The Real Me

While at C lunch, sophomore Hannah Ramirez enjoys her vegetarian meal. "I've been a vegetarian since I was ten because I used to think animals were too cute to eat. I feel animals have as much of a right to live as people do," said Ramirez.

With enthusiasm, senior Kevin Matson plays a video game during a break in class. "I actually have learned how to create and design my own games through self teaching and a computer class I was enrolled in last year," said Matson.

A Deeper Meaning

"Before he passed, my grandfather used to sing the song "Blackbird" by the Beatles to me as a lullaby when I was a child, so the song has a place very close to my heart. The bird represents the song and the ribbon in it's beak represents his battle with lymphoma cancer. The bird being out of the bird cage represents that my grandfather is now in heaven."

Karli Taylor, 12

"When my mother finally agreed, I got my first tattoo in memory of my father who passed away in 2011 from a battle with cancer. It was not my preferred idea, but I was determined to get something for him so I am still happy with it. I got his signature with a crown over it because when I was younger he always used to joke around that he was the king of our house."

Rachel Kruhaj, 11

"My freshman year I took the time to design my tattoo of mother nature incorporated into a tree myself. I decided on this because it is very significant to my life and is a constant reminder that everything will eventually be okay. Life isn't always easy so when it gets rough I was taught to always just try to find the beauty in all things and nature is always something I go to."

Collin Meadows, 10

Performing employee duties, senior Ali Mroueh assists a customer at the Menards in Griffith. "This is by far my favorite job I've had. It's a lot of labor, but it still a good job for me and I will get more benefits after high school," said Mroueh.

My First...

Jamie Thomas, 12

"My first relationship began in the middle of September of 2011. I was in middle school and Jocelyn Serena was a freshman when I finally built up enough courage to ask her to be my girlfriend. It has been four years now and we are still going strong. I have absolutely no regrets and I'm so happy that I have her in my life. I'm definitely in love with her and she's the best girl I could've gotten together with."

Cameron Starks, 9

"I decided to ask my close friend Macie Miller to my first high school dance. I thought it would be a good idea to ask her on my birthday so I made a sign, asked her before school, and thankfully she said yes. She was a great date and overall my whole homecoming week was an awesome one. I didn't know what to expect with it being my first high school dance, but it was a good experience and I can't wait until the future dances."

Abby Anderson, 12

"All I remember is that I was terrified my first day of high school. There were so many people crowding the halls and most of them were way bigger than me so it was extremely intimidating. Not knowing my way around the school also made me a lot more nervous. I had my friends to comfort me which was nice. Being a senior has allowed me to look back at my old freshman ways and get a good laugh out of it."

At the Midwest Center in St. John, freshman Mikey Worosz skates his heart out. "Griffith doesn't have a hockey team, so I play for Bishop Noll. I'm passionate about the sport and it is just refreshing to be on the ice," said Worosz.

In 5th hour 3D art, senior Taylor Pulliam demonstrates his thumb bending. "I broke my thumb twice playing sports. Where it healed the bone is really soft so I'm able to bend my thumb to the point of breaking without much pain," said Pulliam.

Outside the G

From holiday parties at school, to weekends, to winter break, students at GHS made the most of their time outside of school related functions.

"On the weekends, I enjoy going to the movies and hanging out with my friends. I don't have any classes with my close friends, so the only time to see them is the weekends. On breaks, I look forward to going on vacation and having sleepovers with my best friends. I also get to spend time with family that I don't see that often," said freshman Haley Dixon.

Breaks off of school gave students time to relax from homework, studying, and teachers. "When it comes to any break from school, it's a huge weight lifted off our shoulders. Doing work for eight hours a day, five days a week, becomes a little overwhelming," said junior Sam Snell.

"I love being off of school because it gives me a bunch of free time. I usually go hunting when I'm on break and hangout with my friends. I also procrastinate and save all the homework I dread doing until the day before school starts again," said junior Chase Janowski.

"What I don't like about having breaks is that I feel like I'm always in a hurry trying to finish papers assigned during breaks, as well as all of the crammed lessons afterwards. I would rather be in school than having long breaks, where I forget everything I learned," said sophomore Tyler Josephson.

Students had contrasting opinions on breaks and weekends, but each side had good arguments. "In my opinion, I think being in school has its benefits. If we didn't have any breaks, school would be out for the summer much earlier. On the other hand, being in school for so long, I feel like students start getting lazy with their school work," said senior Arlynne Corona.

"Being out of school for breaks is the best because I'm able to catch up on sleep and chill with my friends. We usually go to the YMCA and shoot some hoops and have scrimmage games," said sophomore Kadafi Coleman.

While breaks are much anticipated, students also have the opportunity to enjoy the holidays while still in school. For example, smooches were sold in the month of February for Valentine's Day. Students purchased the smooches for their friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, and some even bought some for their teachers.

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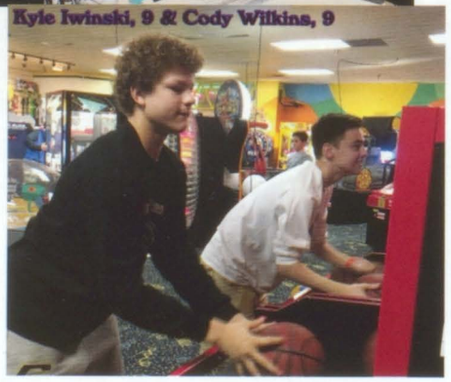
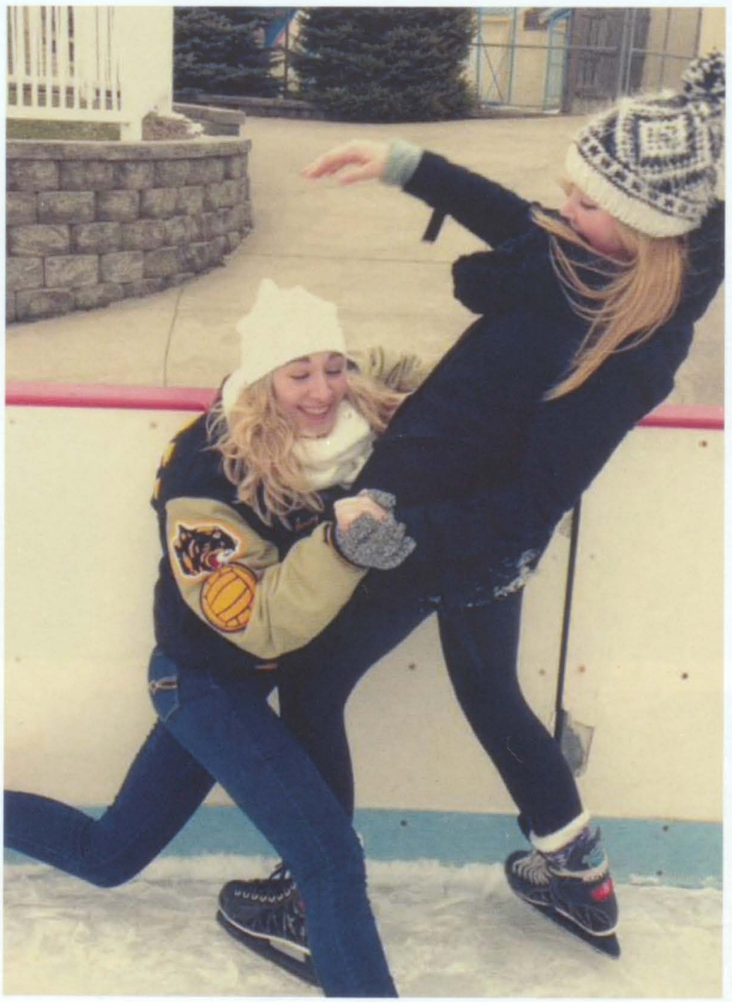
Matthew Pierson, 10

Storm Fleming, 10

Julia Carrillo, 11 & Jasmine Valdez, 11



Kyle Iwinski, 9 & Cody Wilkins, 9



On a cold Sunday afternoon, freshmen Avery Seberger and Camryn Sinars go ice skating at Deep River Water Park. "This was my first time ice skating, and I wasn't good at it, but my friends ended up teaching me how to skate," said Sinars.

To get into the Christmas spirit, junior Ethan Jones decorates a stocking in Kristina Collard's class. "It was pretty cool decorating a stocking and then getting gifts throughout the week from an anonymous person," said Jones.

On the winter weekends, sophomore Alexis Engle snowboards. "I just started snowboarding and I love it. At first, I fell a lot and got discouraged, but now I'm not scared to try anything new on the snowboard," said Engle.

The weekend is the time for sport tournaments, and freshman Rhiannon Banks spends her time playing softball. "I have been playing travel ball for four years now and nothing gets me more excited than playing in a tournament," said Banks.

Away From Home

"On the last week of Christmas break, I went to visit my cousins in Wisconsin and we all went skiing. I also did the polar plunge, which was very awesome but freezing cold. The next day, which was New Years Eve, I went to this bar and grill called Badger Tap with my cousins. We ate food and talked. The food and atmosphere was great. Overall, that weekend was the best getaway I've had in a long time."

Tommy Biancardi, 12

"During the second week of winter break, my family and I drove down to Redinston Beach, Florida. The first couple days we looked around downtown and went shopping. On the third day we went jet skiing. I had a great time until I flipped off the jet ski. I still had a blast though. My favorite part of my trip was just being with my family. It's always a great time when I'm with them. It felt good to get away."

Shawn Graham, 10

Where We're From

"I come from a small town in southern Indiana, which is near Kentucky. The setting over there is extremely different from Griffith. Griffith is a lot more diverse. It's also much more accepting here. I came back to Griffith High School and got a very warm welcome from everyone here."

Rocco Renton, 12

"Before I moved to Griffith, I attended Morton High School. Morton and Griffith schools are both very different and they're totally varied with their students, but I feel like Griffith has a little bit more diversity. Griffith is also very accepting, too. I am enjoying my time here with my friends and my classes."

Diana Huerta, 11

"I used to live in a town in Georgia before I moved to Griffith. Coming to school, it was a little strange adapting to this new environment, but I was warmly accepted. I'm used to seeing the same type of faces at my old school in Georgia, so it's nice seeing the diversity here."

Christian Jackson, 12

In Karen Vondrak's Spanish I class, sophomore Tyler Nguyen works on his culture assignment. "It's exciting to learn about other cultures besides my own. It's interesting to know the different traditions around the world," said Nguyen.

During class, seniors Jeff Gautreaux and Brandon Collett discuss French traditions they do during the holidays. "Being French has of perks, the biggest one being food. I also like my culture and how different it is," said Gautreaux.

"It's neat how we can learn about different customs and traditions from each other. It helps us express ourselves easily knowing that we're equally different," said senior David Hom. Hom and senior Eva Solis talk about their work in psych class.

Cultural G

As one looks throughout the hallways of Griffith High School, one can see the diversity among the students. Griffith has many students that come from different places throughout the world, whether its a different town, state, or even country.

"It was a bit difficult adjusting to Griffith and getting to know the people here. Coming from Bowman Academy, I was used to seeing the same type of people everyday. Here, there are so many different races. I enjoy seeing these different faces and learning about different cultures here," said senior Martin Schiele.

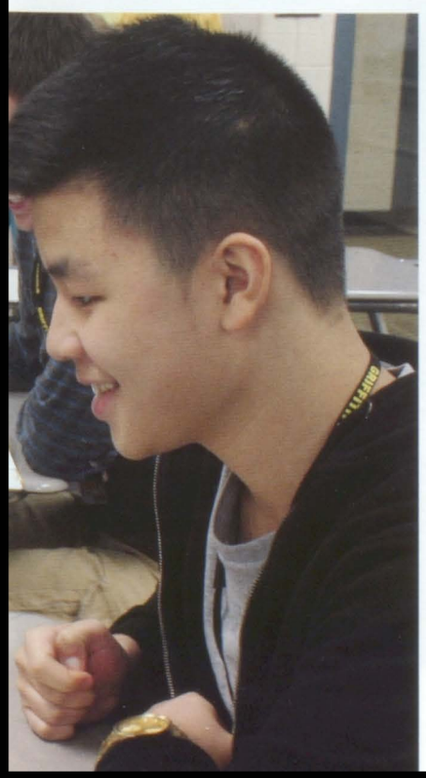
As the holiday season came around, many students openly shared their customs and traditions, and even influenced others, too. Many students from different cultures celebrated specific days differently. Since Griffith is so diverse, one had the opportunity to learn of the various cultures that exist in this small town. Many students also had a different way of celebrating the more common holidays as well, whether it regarded traditional food or the celebration in general.

In a school where students from different places with different customs enroll, it's important to accept what others do, how others dress, and how they speak. Its also important to treat others with respect in order to keep Griffith's comfortable atmosphere intact.

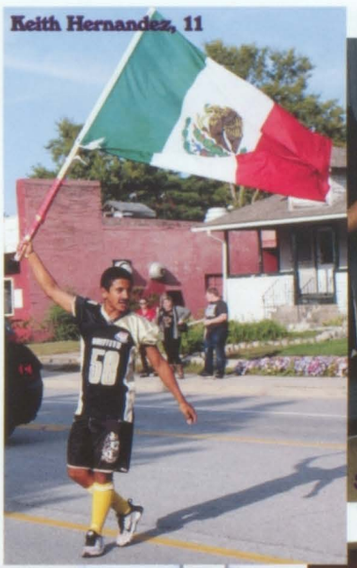
"It's important to learn about other people's cultures because Griffith is filled with many students coming from different parts, and it can give us a better understanding of their traditions and customs. Plus, you have the chance to get to know other people," said freshman Tyra Gonzalez.

Over the recent years, there has been a few foreign exchange students coming to Griffith for their first year of high school. This year, Griffith warmly welcomed a Mexican foreign exchange student, freshman Varenka Sabag. Sabag came from Leon, Guanajato. She played for the volleyball team which helped her meet new friends and soon enough she quickly adjusted.

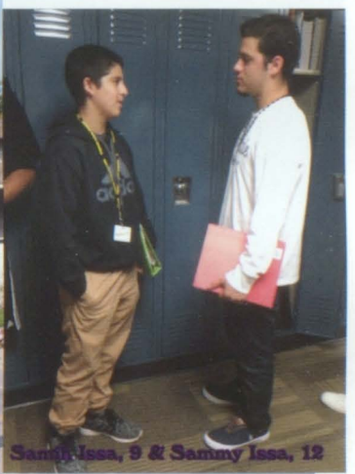
"I like Griffith because it's a small town and the school itself is very comfortable to be in. The people here have treated me really well. I'm excited to see snow for the first time. Snow isn't something common in Mexico, so I'm eager to experience my first white winter," said Sabag.



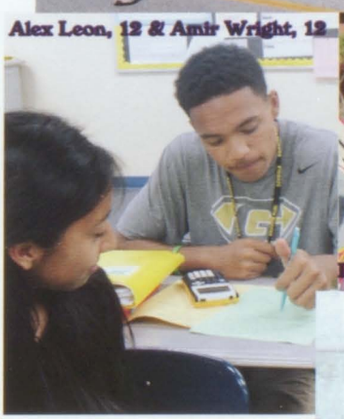
While in the hall, sophomore Alaa Mroueh and seniors Anes Issa and Ali Mroeuh meet up after school. "Griffith's diversity allows us to easily communicate and learn about other cultures and religions and helps us express ours as well," said Ali.



Keith Hernandez, 11



Samir Issa, 9 & Sammy Issa, 12



Alex Leon, 12 & Amir Wright, 12

Lily Salazar & Bella Maglish, 11

John Vasilak, 9

GHS Cares

Every year, Griffith students have never failed to help spread awareness throughout the school and town. From showing support at sporting events to running food drives for Student Council, staff and students did their best to stay involved.

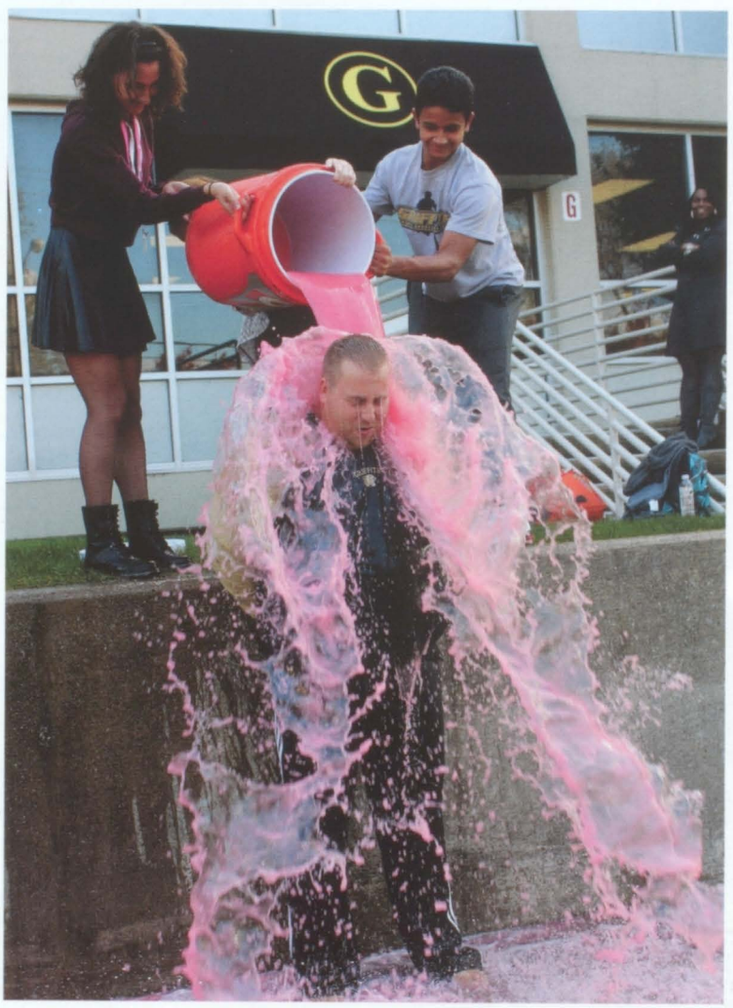
September was Suicide Awareness Month, and this particular year the students of GHS had a reason to spread the word about suicide. On July 27th, 2015, Santino "Sonny" Nunez passed away. He was an upcoming freshman, football player, wrestler, and friend to many in the community. On the day of his wake, his former football teammates and coaches suited up in their jerseys and took a bus to the funeral home. After paying their respects, they went outside and did one final breakdown with Sonny in their presence. The players then dedicated their upcoming season in memory of Sonny.

"When the football team dedicated their season to Sonny, I felt very appreciative that he was being recognized in such a way. I still go over to his house and bond with his family. It's different since he isn't with us, but it makes me feel closer to him," said freshman Cesar Valdez, Sonny's best friend.

October, most famously known as breast cancer awareness month, is celebrated every year at GHS. Students, staff, and fans showed their support for breast cancer survivors and those who have lost their battles. The football games had stands of fans decked in pink. The student section themes included a "pink out" and the cheerleaders showed off their pink bows and gloves.

"I made sure to spread the word to my peers to wear pink to the game because it's an important cause for not only me, but so many others," said senior Anissa Rivera.

Another very important event that was remembered in October was the passing of former Pantherette coach, Teri Calhoun. In the fall of 2011, the dance coach and middle school teacher passed away from her battle with esophageal cancer. The team had a uniform with a purple ribbon sewn onto the back made for their performances and they also wore purple bows to remember her. Also, every year the Pantherettes perform in a showcase that is dedicated in her memory. "It is important to keep Ms. Calhoun's memory, love, and passion for dance alive," said Sara Novak, current Pantherette coach and FACS teacher.



In October, FCCLA hosted "Dancing with the Panthers". Freshman Tyra Gonzalez dances with senior Nathan Dixon. "Helping the kids feel like they're apart of things is the reason I wanted to be apart of the marathon," said Gonzalez.

On September 27th, Student Council dumped pink slime on principal Brian Orkis to raise awareness for breast cancer. "If raising awareness for this cause resonates with at least one or two students, then we did the right thing," said Orkis.

At the first home football game against Hobart, the GHS Pantherettes wore 'Batman-themed' bows in honor of Sonny. "The bows were Brooke Rassel's (9) idea and it made us feel closer to him," said freshman Nina Cima de Villa.

While at the Student Council blood drive, senior Kassandra Cortez talks to the nurse that was registering her. "I was a little nervous because I had never donated blood before, but other people need it more than me," said Cortez.

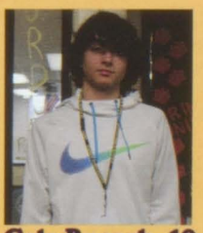
Remembering Sonny

"I wish I could go back to the days when I would stay the night at Sonny's and we'd hang out in his garage. We always had a good time, even if we weren't really doing anything. Just hanging out with each other was enough for us. Now whenever I see anything Batman related, I think of him, since that was his thing."

Drew Davenport, 9

"I remember last year in gym, Sonny taught me how to properly shoot a free throw. It was memorable because I looked up to him and he was an amazing athlete. I loved watching him at his games during the fall. Wrestling and football were his favorite sports and it's safe to say that he was the most athletic student in the our class."

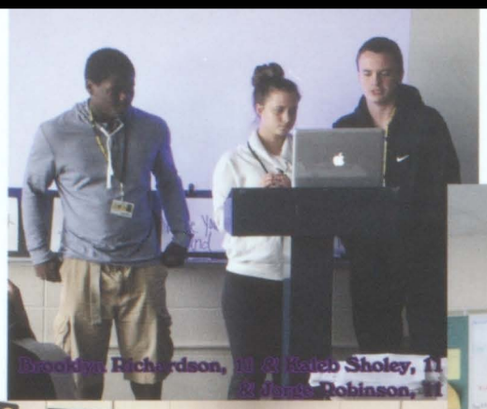
Aary Cano, 9



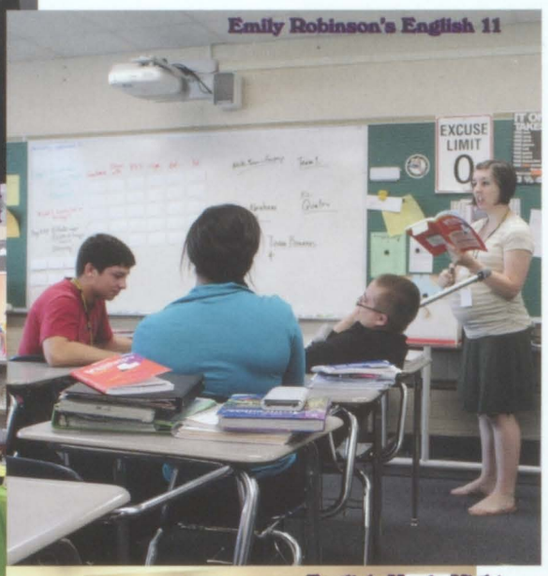
"My best memory with Sonny was when we went on vacation together. We visited Tennessee and went sightseeing and shopping. If I could relive those few days again I would in a heartbeat. I can still see his smile and I can so distinctly remember the way he would act and how he would laugh at the smallest things."

Cole Bocock, 10

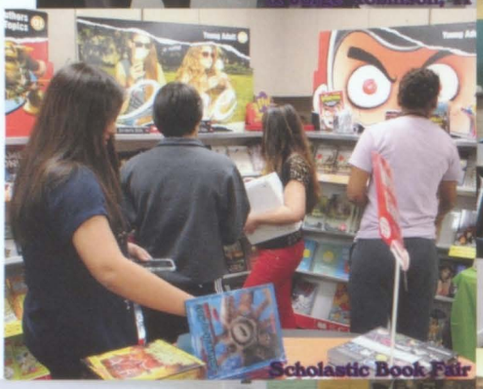
Sporting her Notre Dame apparel, office secretary Brenda Bonewits honors former GMS teacher Lynn Lukemann. "I wore this to remember her and because my kids had her as their middle school science teacher and they adored her," said Bonewits.



Brooklyn Richardson, 11 & Kaleb Sholey, 11 & Jamie Robinson, 11



Emily Robinson's English 11



Scholastic Book Fair

Calvin Roberson, 12 & William Robinson, 12

English Movie Night

Reading stories during the movie night, Kay Orzechowicz dressed up as a witch to get into the spirit. "I'm always reading and I enjoy it a lot, so I was perfect the job," said Orzechowicz.

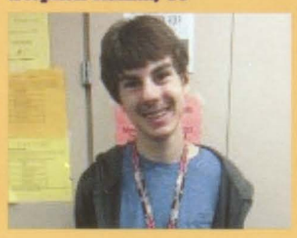
Why Do You Love Reading?

Anna Saberniak, 10

"My favorite thing about reading is that no matter where you are you can read. I also like the that you can imagine whatever you want and the characters can look however you imagine them to look. Reading is like a movie constantly playing in your head. I love that because I have a creative mind."

"Reading is like your own personal TV show where you can change whatever you want, the outcomes are endless. I just love the personal touch you can have when you read. The fact that whatever you imagine happens. Reading is my absolute favorite pastime and I wouldn't trade it for anything else in the world."

Stephen Kunka, 10



Megan Wilson, 10

"The best thing about reading is that it takes you away from the real world and makes you become creative even if you aren't. Reading forces you to think and become smarter in order to understand, it increases your intelligence. I just love reading because after I feel so much smarter than I initially did."

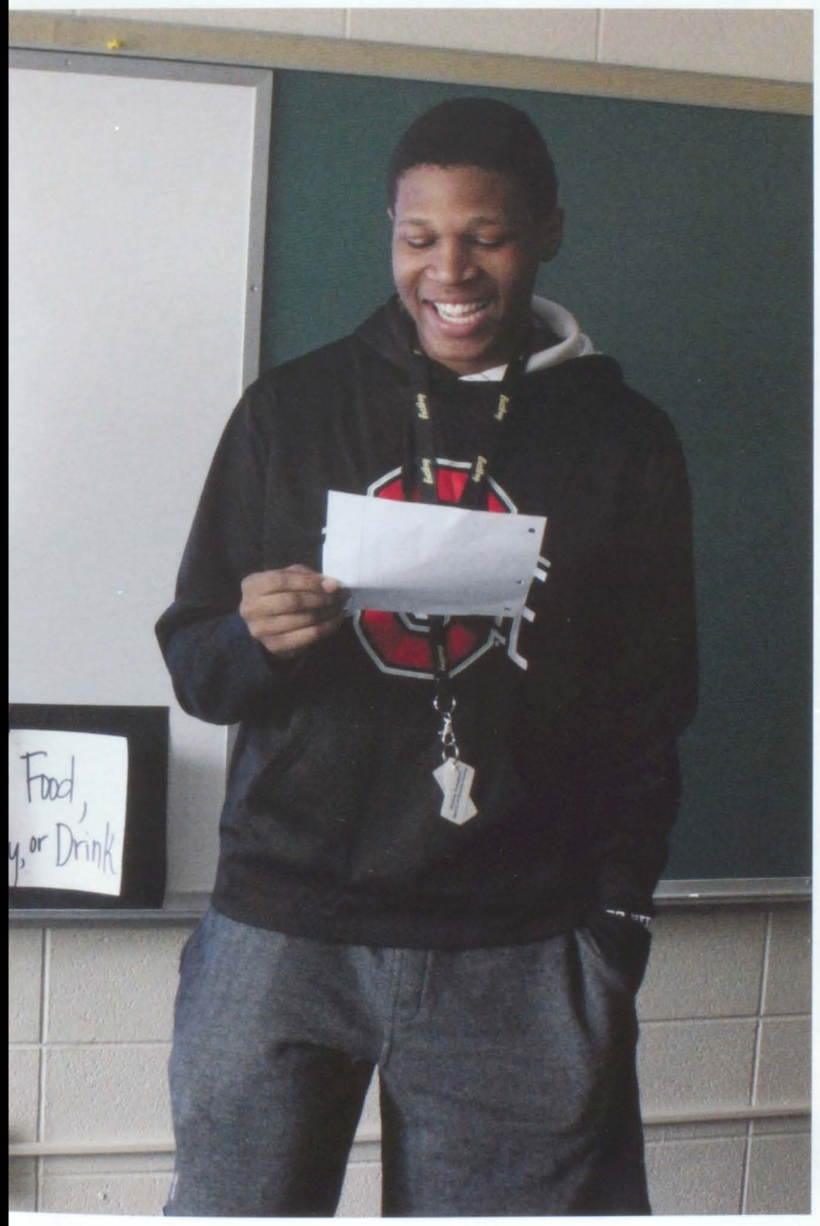
Turn the Page

English rules never change, but students continued to learn more as they progressed through their high school years. Even though English and its grammar rules never changed, the English Department continued to bring in new, unique projects this past year to keep students involved.

A new tradition that was brought into the school year this year was an English movie night. The movie night took place on Thursday, October 29, 2015, at 7 p.m. in the Large Group Instruction room (LGI). The movie that was being shown was "The Fall Of the House Of Usher" based on the novel by Edgar Allen Poe. During the movie, Kay Orzehowicz, English, told spooky ghost stories to those who were uninterested in the movie. "I'm extremely excited the English Department showed 'The Fall Of the House Of Usher', because Edgar Allen Poe is my favorite author. I've never read that story by Poe, but my favorite short poem by him is 'Annabell Lee'. I loved how they planned the movie so close to Halloween since it's a creepier movie. I definitely had a great time," said sophomore Bill Hansen.

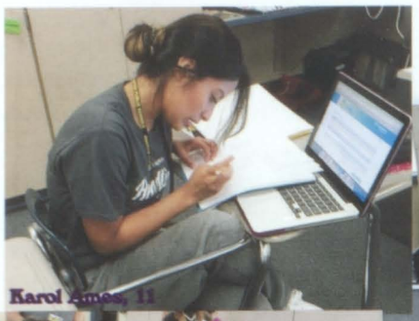
Another development that was added to the English Department was giving the students their own email on Microsoft Online. Microsoft Online was made to be easily accessed, all the students had to do was go onto the Griffith website and press email to log in. Students used Microsoft Online to do different assignments such as power-points and write papers. Microsoft Online allowed students to work on the same assignment at once and also share their work with fellow students and their teachers. "The school giving us our own emails through Microsoft Word really benefited me this year, because I don't have a printer at home and it allowed me to open it wherever there was a printer available. Also it let me share my work with others so I could always have my friends look over my work and check it over for me before I turned it in," said senior David Dowd.

In her second year of teaching at Griffith, Emily Robinson, English, also introduced ekphrastic poetry to all of her classes, which was when a person chose a piece of artwork and wrote a poem about the feeling they felt interpreting that piece of art. Robinson brought different types of poetry into her classroom to teach the classes how to interpret different words and pictures.



Sophomores, Allison Biancardi and Trinity Austin work on an essay for Sheila Vaclavik's class. "I like how we always discuss the stories and books. Mrs. Vaclavik never leaves a question unanswered," said Biancardi.

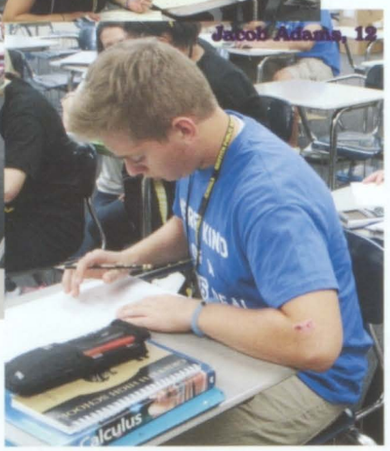
Juniors, Erin Escorza and Cornell Hampton present a project on American Literature in Cassandra Collins class. "Mrs. Collins is an amazing teacher," said Escorza. "She (Collins) always knows the perfect answers to our questions."



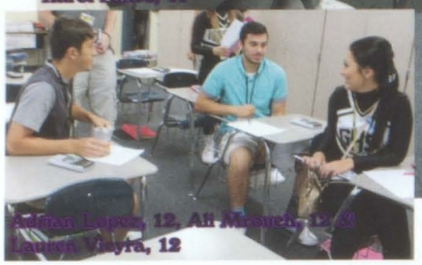
Karol Ames, 11

Ashley Vera, 11

Jaimyne, 9 & Diamond Arthur, 9

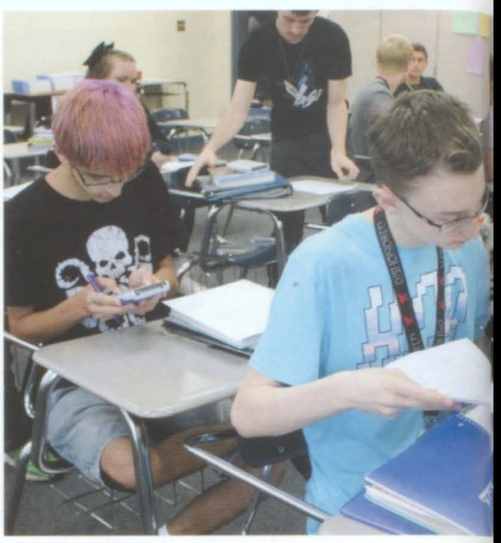


Jacob Adams, 12



Adrian Lopez, 12, Ali Mesneh, 12 & Lauren Vieyra, 12

After Nichalas Dieguez and Joseph Shapiro learned a new calculus lesson, they put their calculators and pencils away. "When you pay attention during class the lessons and the work are easier to figure out and do," said Shapiro.



Lessons Of Life

Jamahl Johnson, 12

"My favorite math formula would have to be the Pythagorean Theorem. I believe it is an important lesson because you will be using it later on in life, so it's a good thing to learn it now. You never know when you might need it later in your career."

David Dowd, 12

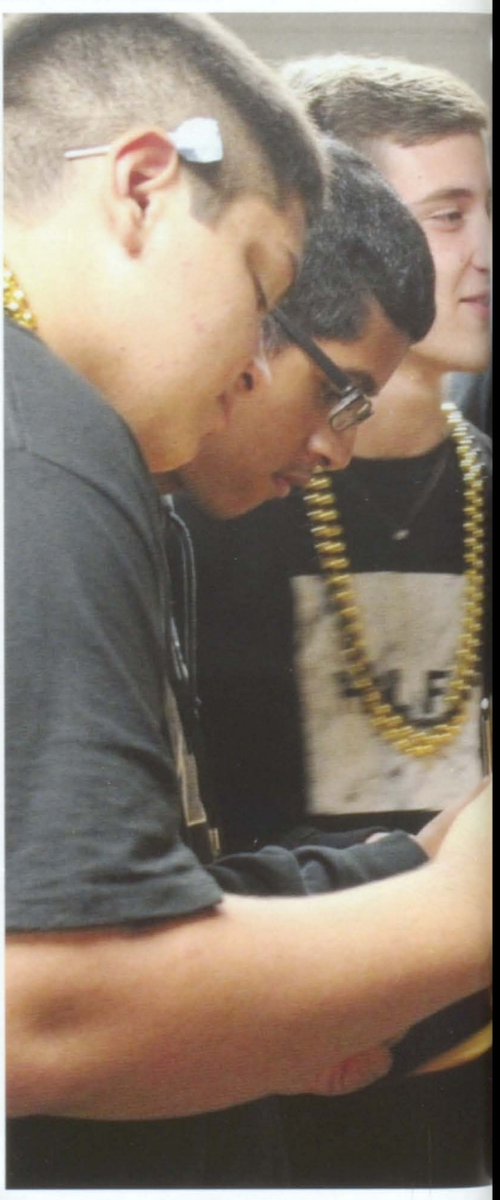
"The power rule is my favorite. It is the simplest thing we have learned all year and is a very important lesson too. You will need to learn this for college as well, which will help you more when looking for a career in your future life."

Cole Bocock, 10

"My favorite lesson is slope intercept and graphing. They are the easiest to me and I like doing them more than any other lesson. This lesson is important because you will need it in college and later in your life. It's good to learn it now"

Destiny Blackman, 12

"Synthetic division is my favorite. I just seem to get it easily and it helps a lot. You need to know this because it helps you in the ACT and for future college tests. Knowing this can help you find a great job for yourself in the future as well. "



Working hard, seniors Lauren Kovacic and Alex Colomes are seen doing their homework and helping each other figure out the lesson. "Working together helps a lot because there can be things my partner knows that I don't," said Kovacic.

Magic Math

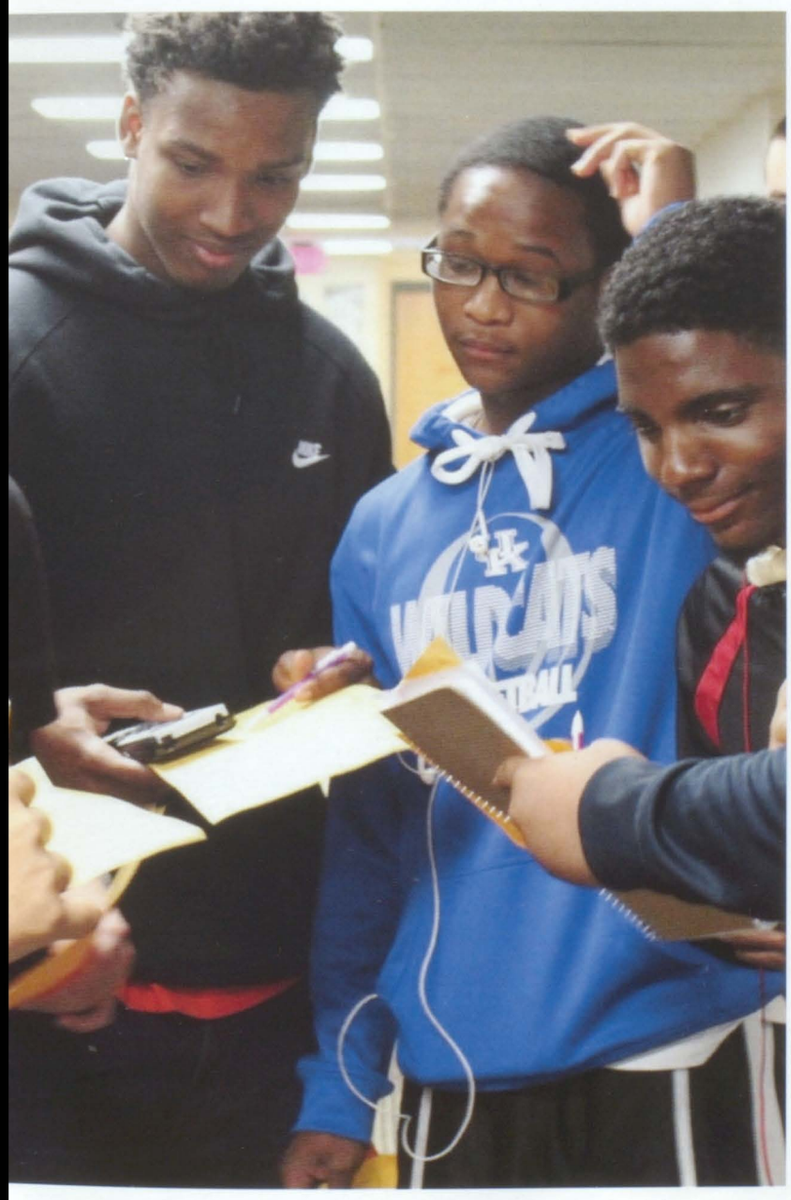
Last year the high school Math department allowed its students to use laptops and helpful websites such as Khan Academy and Study Island. Khan Academy and Study Island are websites that allow teachers to set up assignments for their students to do to get more points in the class.

This year the teachers took a different way to teaching their students. Many teachers had made games or scavenger hunts to entertain the students while they learned the new lesson. In Lauren Januska's, math class, students did a scavenger hunt in which you had to solve the problem correctly in order to move on to the next equation.

Students had begun to use calculators more throughout the math class, due to more complicated concepts. Students were required to have their own calculator for class, and every teacher had their preference on what type of calculator to have. Teachers had extras too for when a student forgot their calculator and needed it for that days lesson. "The calculators have helped me so much in Algebra 2 this year, It makes solving so much faster," said junior Kelsy Lopez.

If a student had trouble and needed extra help, teachers started to stay after school for math help. Math help was four days a week, every week in a different teacher's room everyday. They worked with students on homework problems or past test questions. The teachers stayed for up to a hour on their math help day, which depended on the amount of students that attended. Students went to different teachers depending on the subject that they were in.

Christine Chidichimo, math department head, had began to prepare her AP Calculus students for their AP test since school started. Chidichimo prepared them with old test questions and timed them while doing it. The AP Calculus class is a college based class that prepared advanced juniors and seniors for math classes in college. These students were given the opportunity to sign up for the dual credit through Purdue North Central to receive a credit no matter the outcome of their AP test grade in May. The AP Calculus test grade was on Thursday, May 5th, 2015, in the morning. "Calculus gets tough at times, but once you figure out one step you can figure out the whole problem," said senior Jared Lipski.



A group of Lauren Januska's students are seen working together to solve an equation. Once they have solved the problem they will be able to move on in the scavenger hunt. Senior is contributing to the group by using his calculator.

Participating in a game for their math class, senior Alex Colomes and juniors Michelle Beck and Carson Grin get cards from Christine Chidichimo. "When we do games like this it helps me remember the lessons better," said Grin.

Science Spells

One of the major parts of being in a high school science class was being able to conduct various experiments in order to better understand the concept that was at hand. In science, students used application skills and team work to earn a passing grade in their class. "The labs we did in Ms. KV's class were an interesting and a creative way to learn about how to test certain substances. I enjoyed all the experiments we have done in that chemistry class," said junior KayLynn Jarrells.

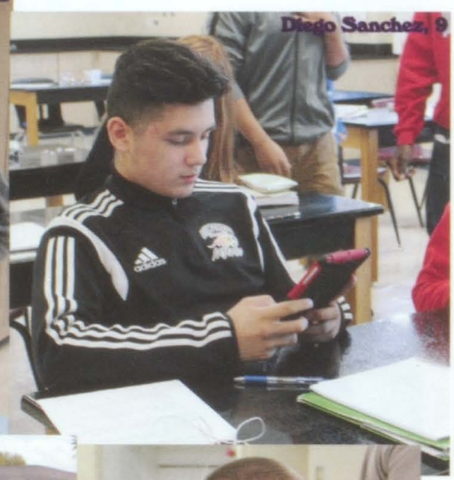
In the other classes such as anatomy, students were told to examine and dissect an animal of the teacher's choice. Julie Wencloff's anatomy class was asked to dissect a frog early on in the year. The students had a piece of paper with the frog's insides named and where they were located. "The class is informative and entertaining, but at times can become difficult and even confusing. But in the end you will always learn something new from it," said junior Sabrina Dodson.

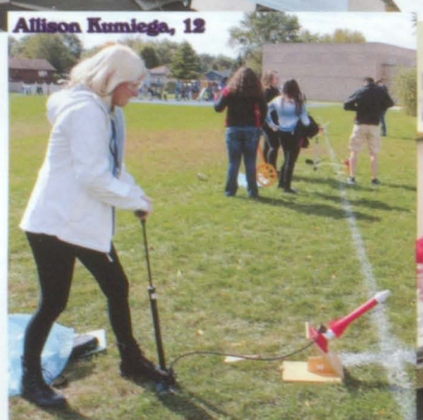
In the physics classes, one of the labs in the curriculum was constructing a base for an air powered rocket. Using only an air pump, the students had to work together to make this project work. Once it was constructed the class went outside in between the bus barn and Beiriger Elementary School to shoot them. The purpose of this lab was to solely focus on the study of projectiles and apply it to a real world situation.

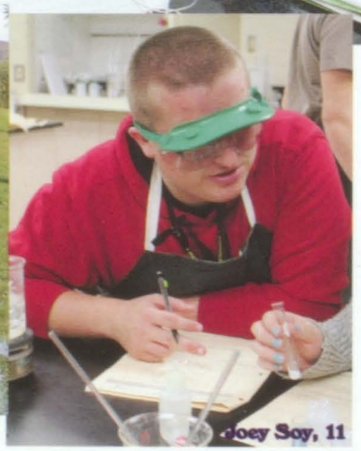
In Biology I, students fully examined the human cell and learned the different parts of it and the roles that each individual part is responsible for. Once the lesson was concluded, each student was responsible for creating a diorama of the cell. "I regretted waiting until the day before it was due to start working on the project because I was up all night trying to finish it. I ended up getting an 'A' on it though so I was happy and also relieved," freshman Myles Taylor.

The teachers took their lessons seriously and made sure students were safe. In the science department, seven teachers came to school each day to educate their students on the importance of different concepts in science. This year, Griffith welcomed first year teachers, Jennifer Bullard and Lindsey Keene. Along with the two new staff members, Julie Wencloff, department head, Fred Farnell, Carol Hacker, Laura North, and Jane Villaroman filled the remaining rooms in the science hallway.

Nathan Coglianese, 12


Diego Sanchez, 9


Allison Kumiega, 12

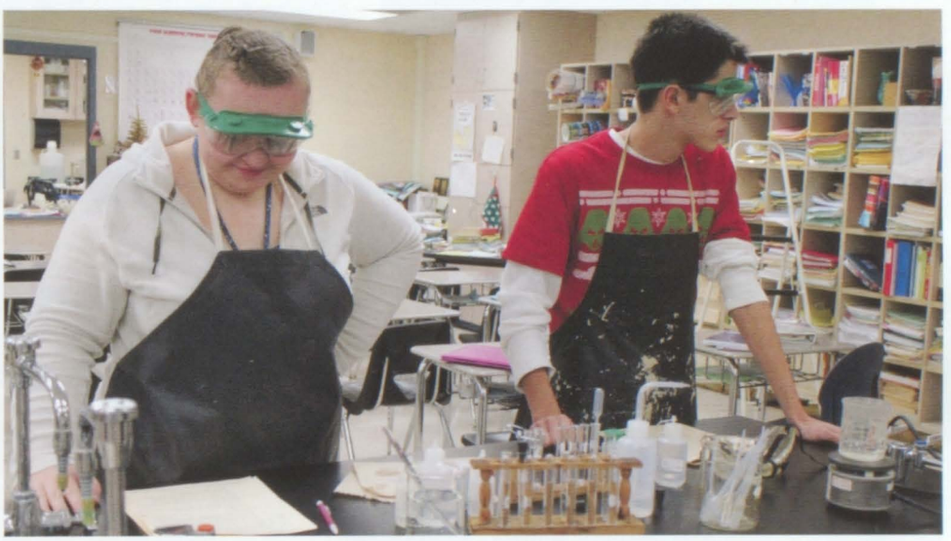

Joey Soy, 11

Isaiah Ramirez, 11 &
Jadeia Sholey, 11

As juniors Iy-Lyse McGee and Kayla Schramm put on their safety equipment, they prepare to conduct their substance testing lab. "I learn best from hands on experience, so for me I would rather do that than learn from a book" said Schramm.

In Laura North's earth space science, freshmen Gabe Pulido and Mateo Lopez examine different rocks for a lab. "Seeing all of the different shapes and layers of the rocks and minerals was very interesting. It was a tough lab though," said Lopez.

As they go over the sketch of the frog's body, juniors Gardenia Gonzalez and Alec Seberger work on their frog lab. "The lab was weird but in a good way. I would definitely do more labs like this if I have the chance," said Gonzalez.



Doing their qualitative analysis lab, seniors Jillian Beaupain and Nichalas Dieguez test substances to figure out their identity. "At some points this lab was difficult, but my partner and I were okay compared to the rest of the class," said Dieguez.

Favorite Lab

Josh Zoran, 12

"My favorite lab was the animal identification lab in Mr. Davis's biology class. We had to stick our hands in a big jar of dark liquid and pull out animals we felt. There was so many different things in there and it was fun to sit there and look at the animals. The lab was also informative and exciting at the same time."

Sylvie Dowd, 11

"The flame test lab in Mrs. Villaroman's chemistry class was my favorite. You had to get a stick and dip it in the jar of the liquid and than using tongs place it in the middle of the flame. Each substance gave off a different color, and some were a mix of colors. It was just a different sight to see and be able to do."

Back in Time

Taking history classes were a must for the students of Griffith High School. To be able to graduate with the Core 40 Diploma, students must have earned six social studies credits. These credits include two U.S. history credits, two world history credits, one economic credit, and one government credit.

Some students signed up for dual credit programs to receive a credit for both their high school and college transcripts. The students could've taken AP U.S. History, AP Psychology, and AP Government to earn the dual credit. AP Psychology and psychology are social studies classes. They were considered electives so it was not possible to have received a credit for those classes.

The social studies department included Jim Pickett, department head, Luann Pramuk, Jenna Berzy, and Jenna Candiano. Pickett taught economics, government, and AP Government. Pramuk taught world history, U.S. history, and AP U.S. History. Berzy taught world history, psychology, and AP Psychology, Candiano taught world geography, and world history.

Social studies is a note based class with few homework assignments, but several tests. These classes were known for not having many projects outside the classroom, but having multiple in class. Both psychology classes did the sheep brain lab, where they partnered up and dissected a sheep brain during the class period. "Dissecting the sheep brain was really interesting, I've never done a lab like that before," said junior Charlie Flores.

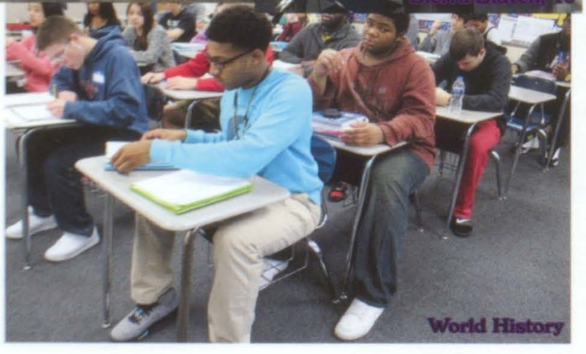
Pramuk's AP U.S. History class, better known as APUSH, was a class that prepared juniors for college. Notes for a 30-35 page chapter were due once a week, along with various assignments. These students constantly worked on either notes that were due or a DBQ (document based question) which took a lot of time and effort. "I feel like APUSH really is preparing me for the obstacles I will face in college and teaching me how to overcome them," said junior Josh Cavazos.

Berzy's AP Psychology class went to Brookfield Zoo on November 5, along with Julie Wencloff's AP Biology. At the zoo, the students were required to study any animal of their choice for two fifteen minute increments. During this time, the students were to watch how the animals reacted in situations and how they acted in that time period.

Trevor Losiniecki, 11

Danny Smith, 9 &
Leah Vuckovich, 10

Sierra Slavens, 10

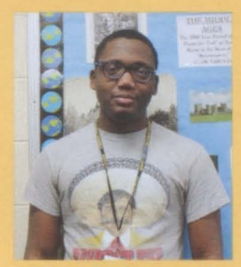


World History

After looking over her material one last time before the Americanism Government Test, sophomore Storm Fleming jokes around with friends. "This was the first time I've ever taken this test and I didn't really study much for it," said Fleming.

While working on notes in class, junior Rachel Deck concentrates on the reading the section. "APUSH is a tough class especially with having new books, because you can't ask past students for help but I try to take good notes," said Deck.

AP Psychology



William Robinson, 12

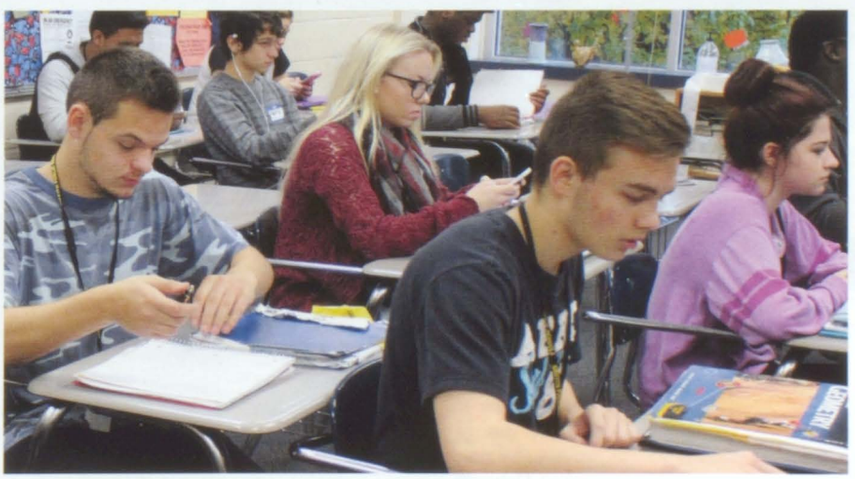
"AP Psychology is a very intellectual class. It's one of the best classes at Griffith High School, actually. Ms. Berzy always has us do different types of projects instead of always just taking notes and tests. I know I'll be beyond prepared for the AP test in May and hopefully I'll get a four or five to get the credit."

Leyah Hodge, 11

"This is the first AP class I've ever taken, and I've enjoyed it so much. From dissecting to doing various projects, it's never a boring class. There's not a lot of us in the room which makes the whole class seem really close. I'm actually really excited to take the AP test because I know I'll do well thanks to Ms. Berzy."

Cautiously dissecting the sheep brain, senior Lauren Kovacic works by herself in her AP Psychology class. "I was so eager to take psychology my senior year. The labs are interesting and I've learned a lot," said Kovacic.

During class, sophomore Morgan Ladendorf checks her grades online. "We had just finished taking notes in class so most of us were just sitting back relaxing. Ms. Candiano makes World History easy and always switches it up," said Ladendorf.



The Ups and Downs

"I wanted to be able to understand conversations in Spanish. I also enjoy watching movies in Spanish and learning about Cinco de Mayo. The worst thing about Spanish II is all the homework we get assigned. I loved making the masks for Cinco De Mayo."

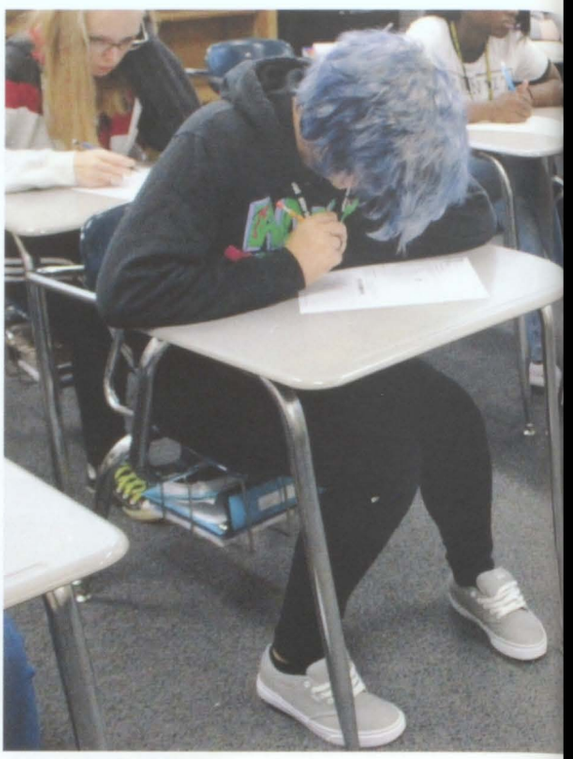
Emily Marsh, 10

"People actually work in Madame's room. There are too many notes, but we learn a lot of interesting vocabulary. We conjugate a lot of different forms of verbs. I've been in French class for three years and Madame is pretty chill and hilarious."

Carson Grin, 11

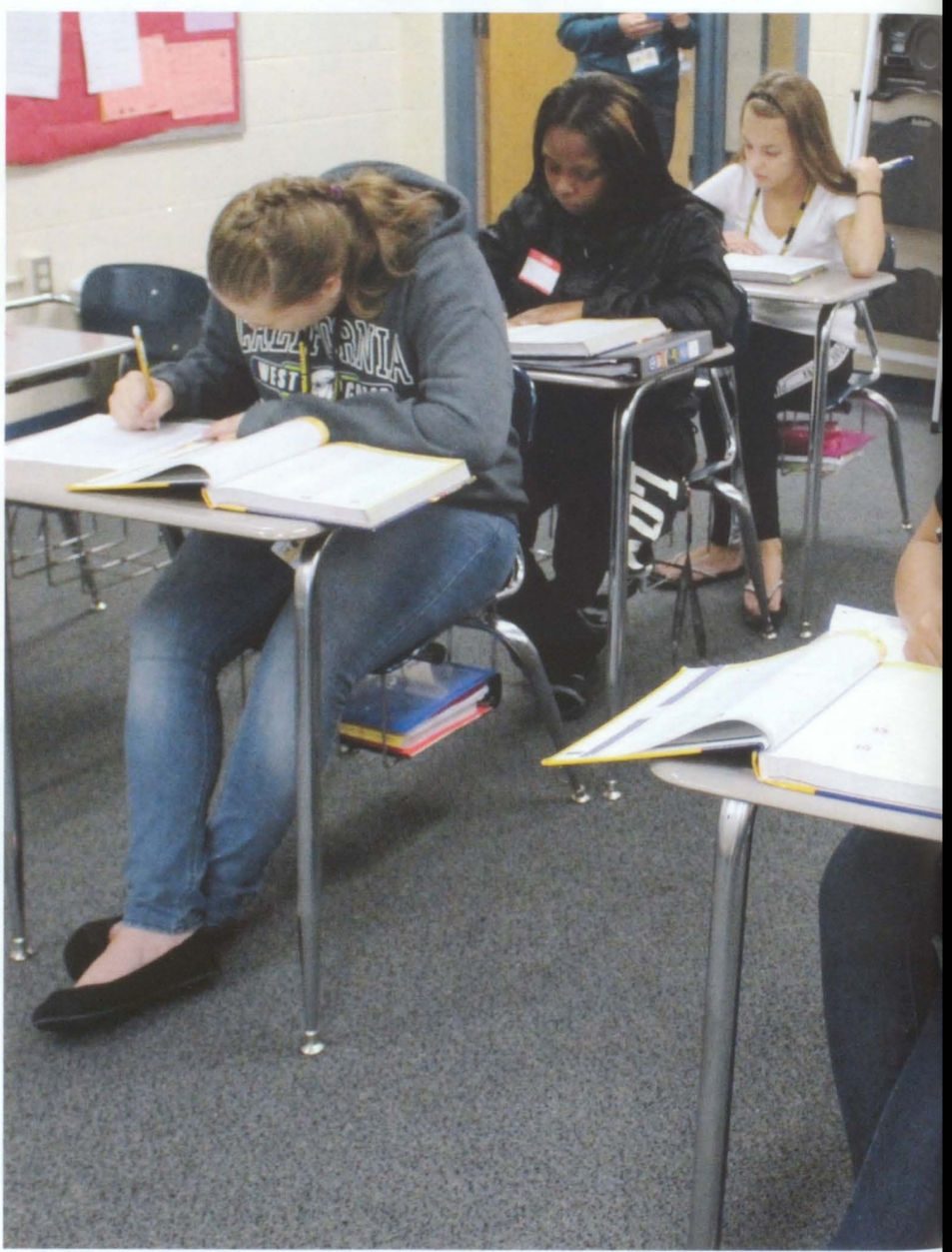
"Madame is so caring and always asks how everyones day is going. I started French in eighth grade because, it looks good on college applications. I want to take French until my Senior year but you can only take French for four years. My favorite thing in French is etre past tense."

Delia Booker, 10



In French I, junior Jessica Diaz does her French word search assignment for Lorraine Hageman's class. "The word searches are very helpful when learning how to translate French and we did a connect the dots with a worm," said Diaz.

Spanish II class works eagerly on their assignments. "I love that Mrs. Naranjo holds our attention until the end of class. I don't like book work, but we get to make different creations like paper masks," said sophomore Rebecca Flores.



Latin Tales

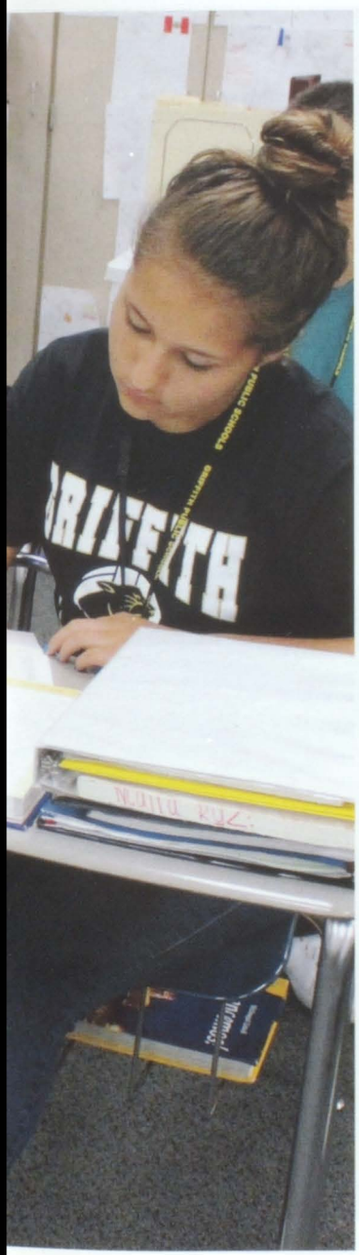
Griffith High School students were required to take a minimum of two years of either French or Spanish. By taking a language in high school, it allowed students to expand their knowledge in different cultures and vocabulary. Students who wanted to receive the Academic Honors Diploma or Technical Honors Diploma had to take three years of a foreign language. Four years was the maximum amount that one student could take of a foreign language, including advanced placement.

The staff that taught foreign language was James Ford, Spanish, Nanette Naranjo, Spanish, Karen Vondrak, Spanish, and Lorrainne Hageman, French. Ford was the only the foreign language teacher that taught an AP class. All of this staff has taught at Griffith for several years.

Loraine Hageman, French, tried to encourage more students to take French this year since in past students always preferred Spanish more. "I want to change people's negative opinions on the French, especially the parents. One thing I dread is an uninterested class, and I always try to avoid that with my classes," said Hageman. Hageman keeps her French class interesting with various projects and movies in French so students can constantly practice learning the language.

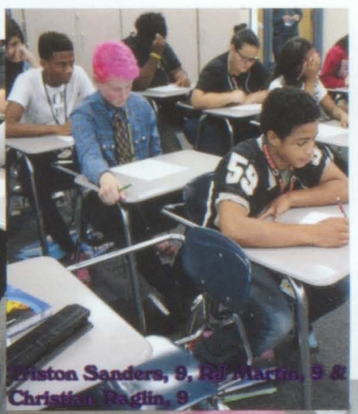
Students who took a foreign language received multiple opportunities such as taking field trips. Ford's AP Spanish IV class took a field to Indiana University Northwest's Campus to see the play Bale Folkloric. During this play the students saw various Mexican Dances through ages including tribes such as the Aztecs. "The play was culturally distinguishing, and my emotions persuaded me to believe that I was an authentic MezoAmerican," said senior William Robinson.

Students who also took a foreign language did various different types of projects such as Day of the Dead tissue paper. In Naranjo's classes, she gave each student a piece of tissue paper for them to cut different shapes into them. Each student was required to interpret their way of how they see Day of the Dead. Once all the projects were turned in, Naranjo hung up the papers all around her room to decorate for Day of the Dead this year. "I really liked being artistic in Spanish, because it's always nice to take a break from book work," said freshman Paige Zoran.



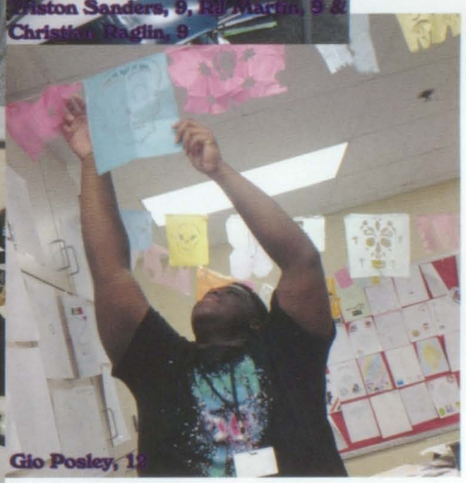
James Ford's Decorations

Renee Adams, 11



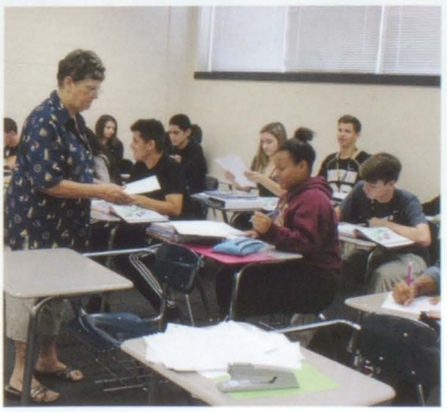
Kriston Sanders, 9, Ril Martin, 9 & Christian Raglin, 9

Spanish I Class



Gio Posley, 12

Students work on their environment notes while in Mrs. Naranjo's Spanish class. "Mrs. Naranjo is very sympathetic and listens to her students comments and concerns unlike most of my teachers," said sophomore Victoria Metcalf.

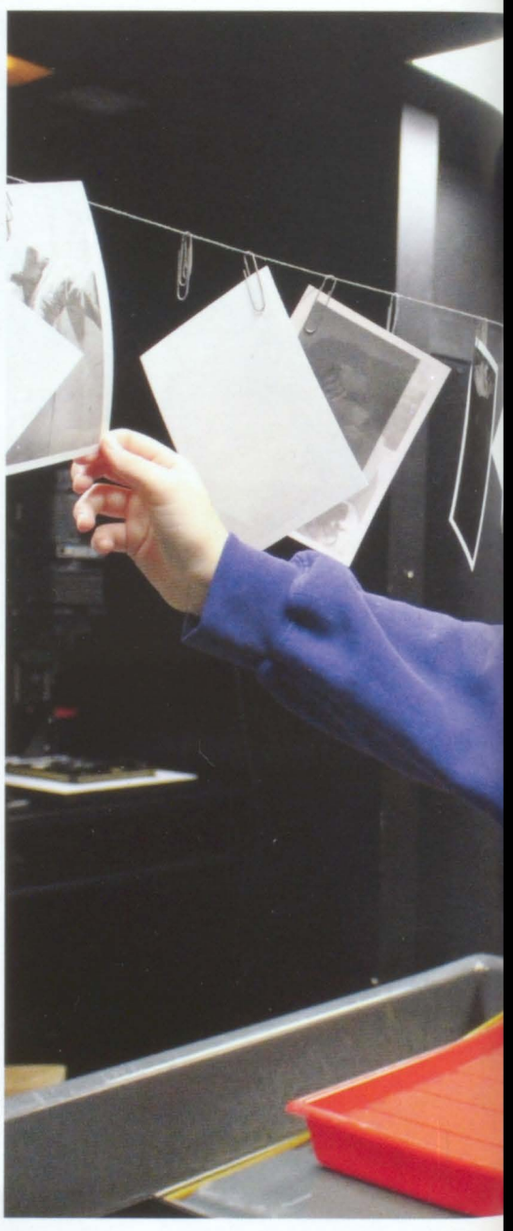


In Karen Vondrak's Spanish I class, freshman Brooke Rassel receives her "family" test and looks over her grade. "I was ecstatic on my grade because Ms. Vondrak added a section last minute and I didn't have time to study," said Rassel.

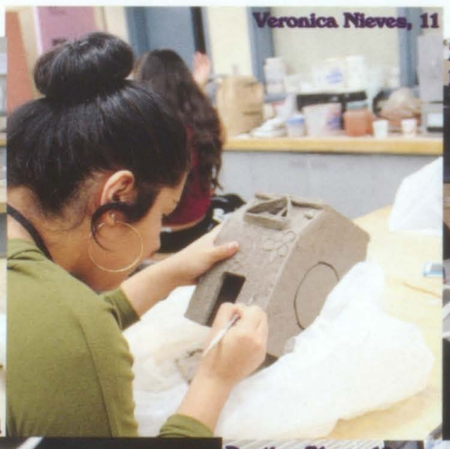
Developing his negatives in photography I class, sophomore Zach Steele pours developer into his container. "Being able to look at different things around town in a new perspective for my photo assignments is my favorite thing to do," said Steele.

In Visual Communications, sophomores Nathan Klingensmith and Nicholas Herrara work on their assignment. "This class is a relaxing atmosphere and its easy to communicate my feelings. I also like having it with my friend," said Herrera.

Focused and working hard, sophomore Garrett Zambo completes his ceramics project. "I love ceramics and I would recommend it to anyone who is artsy. I really like Mr. Graff, he is easy to talk to is a very well rounded person," said Zambo.

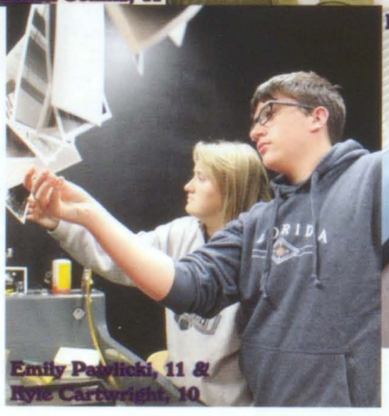


Alexxa Collins, 11

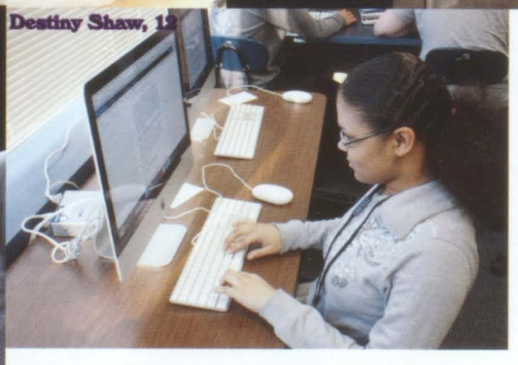


Veronica Nieves, 11

Marcus Tucker, 10 & Margaret Rivera, Art



Emily Pawlicki, 11 & Ryse Cartwright, 10



Destiny Shaw, 12

Be Creative

Here at Griffith High School there are several art-based classes and clubs that can help students express themselves through artwork and creativity. Art club is one of the many clubs that students at Griffith High School can take. There are also electives such as 3D art, painting, and ceramics available for students to take to bring out their inner Picasso.

There are even some classes for students to take so that they can learn about art. A new class that was available this year for students to take was art history. This class lasted one semester and went into depth on things that aren't traditionally covered in regular art classes. Margaret Rivera taught that class and many other art classes.

Many students take several art classes sometimes even all the classes that are available. However, a full year of art is required to graduate.

In addition to ceramics and painting, photography is a semester long course open to students in tenth grade and above. Taught by Jim Graff, photography taught students how to carry out the negative developing process and how to print their photos using chemicals inside of the dark room.

"I love art. Every class I can get my hands on I take. I love being able to express myself in my artwork and it's a class where I can just put my headphones in, listen to some calming music, relax, and let my imagination go wild. I also don't have homework so that is definitely a plus. I like both of the art teachers. Ms. Rivera and Mr. Graff are both funny and always optimistic about everything. There isn't a day that goes by when I don't have a smile on my face when I'm in art class," said junior Jeremy Schaller.

"I love how when you draw or paint something and you see the final outcome and you are so proud because you made that art. I'm left handed, so art isn't the easiest thing to do. Everyone knows that being left handed has its limitations but I know how to work around it and power through it. This year I didn't take any art classes because my schedule wouldn't allow for me to do so, but I'm definitely taking art next year. I highly recommend taking art because there is no bad thing about it, you don't get homework and you can express yourself," said sophomore Emily Marsh.

After allowing her photo to dry, sophomore Marrissa Walter goes into the dark room to see the final result. "My favorite part is after all the developing is done, you get to see if your photos came out the way you want them," said Walter.

Artistic Inspiration

Morgan Taylor, 12

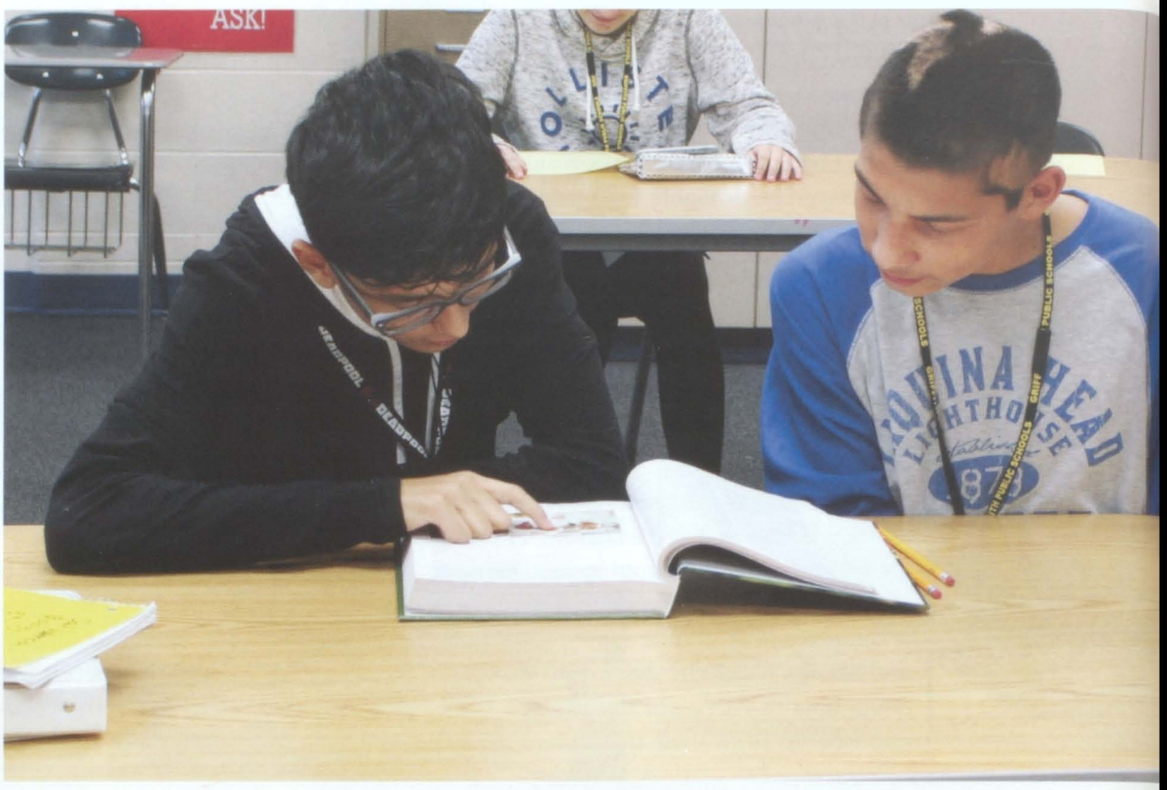
"I have been in ceramics for three years and I have made so many memories. I enjoy it a lot and Graff is my favorite teacher. He has taught me a lot over the years and has given me a lot of ideas. I'm not good at art, but I am actually good at ceramics. I put a lot of effort into my pots and my work in general in Graff's class. Just recently in class a pot that I had been working on for a week or two broke and I cried actual tears because of how hard I worked on it."

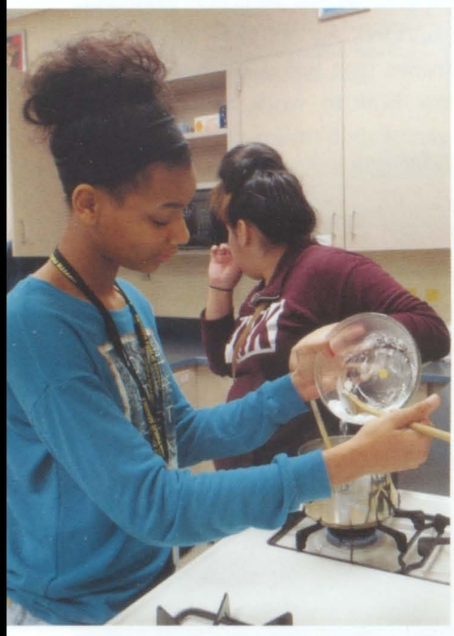
Yamia Smith, 10

"I am not in any art classes but I am in art club. Art club is exhilarating and it is a way to express who you truly are. It's also a way to meet new people who are interested in art just as much as you. I don't think that art can be put into words. Everyone has their own perspective and their own outlook on art, so one piece of art isn't the same to any one person. I could like a certain piece and have an extreme love for that specific piece and you could absolutely hate it."

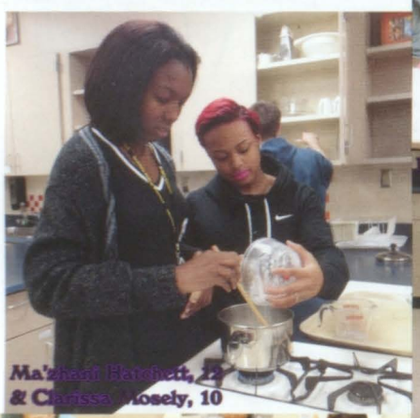
While looking through their book, freshmen Saul Valencia and Damian Davila complete their assignment for the culinary arts class. "Damien and I were working on our definitions together so we could get it done faster," said Valencia.

Pouring a mix into the pot, sophomore India Tillman makes Creme Brulee. "It's a difficult food to make because it burns so easily. When my group was finished making it, it tasted very scrumptious. I would definitely make it again," said Tillman.

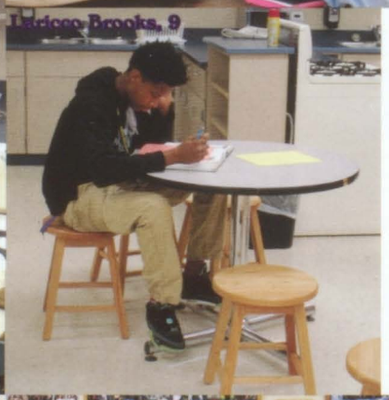




Mariah Bolden, 10



Ma'zhani Hatchett, 12 & Clarissa Mosely, 10

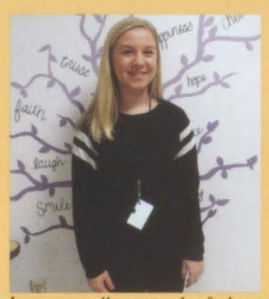


Tadicee Brooks, 9

Mariah Riesken, 9

Keyana Hayes, 12 & Jalyn Jones, 9

Projects to Remember



"The tote bag that my textiles class made in textiles was for sure one of my favorite projects. I loved the process of making the tote bag. The hardest part about the whole thing was sewing the zig-zags onto the bag. Other than that, it was easy and really exciting to make. I was really proud of the project when I was finished. I always use the tote bag when I go to my friend's house so I have a place to keep my stuff."

Taylor Hill, 9

"My favorite thing to make in baking class was the pizza we had to cook. It was really easy to make and it tasted delicious. I'm pretty sure the best part of the pizza was the pepperoni that I put on it. It definitely made that pizza taste like the bomb diggity. This class allows me to learn new things and cook good food. We do things that always have me pumped to make food. Having the class with my friends definitely makes the projects more memorable."

Matthew Alvarez, 10

Fast Facs

At GHS, the FACS department incorporated child development, culinary arts, interior decorating, textiles, education professions, and adult prep. The courses engaged students in hands-on learning that they might use later in life. "I took textiles last year and I'm so glad I took it, because whenever I find a hole or something in my shirts I know how to sew it," said sophomore Allison Biancardi. In textiles, students learned everything about the sewing machine and how to sew materials into different items. During the semester, students worked on sewing tote bags, frog pillows, and pajama pants or shorts.

In child development, students were taught how babies grew and developed. They learned how it felt to carry a child with an empathy belly, or fake belly. "Child development is a great class because it prepares students for having children and it really shows them how hard it is to have and raise a child. Babies are super expensive. Teen pregnancy is not a good time, it's actually a lot more work than people think. This class is probably one of the most useful classes," said junior Courtany Cobb.

Culinary arts students were taught menu planning, food handling skills, safety precautions, units of measure, and how to make simple, yet tasty meals. Before students were allowed into the kitchen, they were required to complete extensive book work assignments to ensure that they were educated on proper techniques.

Interior design is the process of designing the interior decoration of a room or building. The students designed and decorated rooms for projects. They also went on a field trip this year to Chicago to look at the city's finest architecture. "What I love about interior design is learning about all the kinds of houses there are and color coordinating the insides. It's going to help prepare me for the future when I get my own home," said junior Ale Albanese.

In adult prep, students were taught the basic skills of communication and different relationships with people. During the semester, students received many worksheets that had life quotes on them.

Shannon Scheidel, Sara Novak, and Theresa Neal are all the teachers who taught in the FACS department. They all have been teaching here at Griffith for several years. "These teachers are my favorite because of the way they teach," said senior Taylor Kazmer.

In textiles class, sophomore Anna Saberniak makes her tote bag. "I loved making them because I couldn't wait to see the final piece of the project. When it was done I thought I did a pretty great job," said Saberniak.

With the help of his teacher Shannon Scheidel, junior Delshaun Garner tries on the empathy belly, or fake belly. "It was weird being fake pregnant as a guy. It was very heavy and it hurt my stomach. I now sympathize for women," said Garner.

Being Fit

Griffith High School offered a range of classes to help students get a better understanding of how to stay healthy and active at the same time. Two of the classes necessary for all high schoolers to graduate are health and traditional physical education (PE). Once the mandatory classes are completed, upperclassmen have the choice to take advanced physical conditioning (APC), team sports, and substance abuse.

Health class was available for sophomores and was taught by Michael Brown, P.E. teacher. The main purpose of this class was to teach students the basic ways to live a healthy life through their actions and eating habits.

Along with teaching health, Brown tested the competitiveness of students through team sports. This elective consisted of tournaments in speedball, basketball, and flag football. For most of the year, the class was held inside of the main gym or field house, but, if the weather permitted, students were able to go compete on the turf. "It feels great to step out of class for an hour to hang out with my friends and play sports. We play a couple of sports, but my favorite is speedball," said junior Sean Bailey.

Substance abuse, also taught by Brown, is offered to help students make smart decisions while avoiding dangerous situations. The class explained the effects of intoxication and drug abuse through scenarios in the students' lessons.

Advanced physical conditioning, taught by Ben Geffert, showed students the proper techniques to lift weights. This elective tested the physical limits of each person. Class started with a warm-up of jump-roping to prepare the student's body for the amount of weight they would fit. Occasionally, if the weather was nice, Geffert would take the class outside to play catch with a football. "I took APC to stay in shape for football next season. Sometimes we do core workouts and open gym. I like to squat the most though," said junior Isaiah Allen.

Aside from teaching APC, Geffert allowed students to take part in multiple sports through PE. Every two weeks the sports changed with an occasional open gym that enabled students to do any kind of physical activity they wanted. The most common activities were basketball, volleyball, and running. "I'm taking PE and health this year. My favorite part of PE is open gym because I get to play basketball," said sophomore Jazaria Daniels.

Anthony Williams, 12

Josh Miller, 11

Team Sports

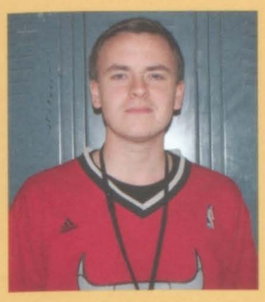
Emma Loomis, 9

Tayvien Walker, 10 & Kadaff Coleman, 10

Focusing on his form, freshman Michael Waite gets ready to shoot a free-throw during his 7th hour PE class. "I only play basketball during my class because it is my favorite sport. I enjoy this class because it helps me stay in shape," said Waite.

The health class prepares for their upcoming test by playing a review game. "Mr. Brown's review game gives us students the opportunity to learn, review, and practice the material that will appear on the test," said sophomore Sam Stassin.

A Healthy Mentality



"I keep my body as healthy as it can be by making strawberry banana smoothies almost everyday and keeping track of what I eat throughout the day. This helps me control my balance of food groups. I stay active by playing basketball with my friends at Ready Elementary School. I also have substance abuse 8th hour with Mr. Brown down in the fieldhouse."

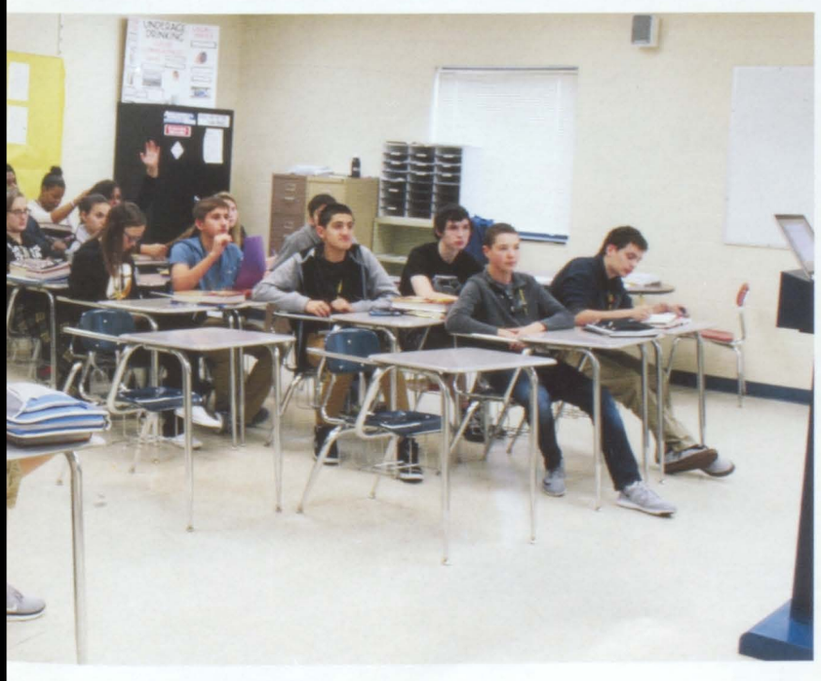
Kaleb Sholey, 11

"I keep a healthy mind by staying positive through extremely difficult situations. I try not to put so much stress on myself by finishing my homework on time and getting enough sleep each night. I also try my hardest to avoid unnecessary drama so it'll reduce my stress level. I enjoy going outside or walking around my neighborhood to clear my mind."

Isiam Amara, 10

With an encouraging expression, senior Christian Jackson watches his friends, junior AJ Myricks and senior Mario Williams, do tricep kickbacks. "I enjoy APC because it helps me stay in shape for next football season," said Myricks.

"I learned how to take care of my body in health class. Sitting and talking with my friends makes the class more enjoyable," said sophomore Lacey Shipp. Students diligently do their work while Brown passes out graded papers.



Into The Future

Griffith High School has many types of elective classes to choose from, several of the courses being business classes. There are business classes that are made for specific career choices. For example, computer science, accounting, marketing, and intro to business are all courses that were offered for students to enroll in. Additionally, once students completed their required math courses, they were able to enroll in a business math class which substituted for a normal math class.

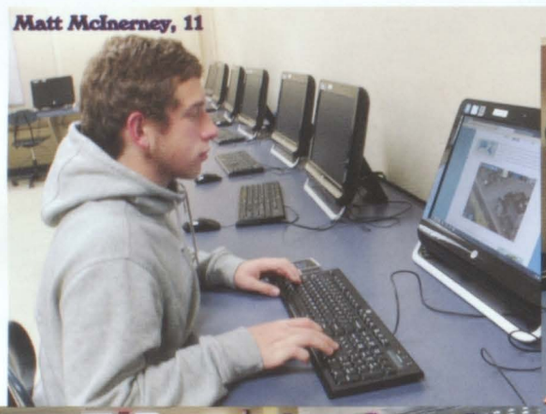
"In marketing, we learn a lot about advertising and reaching out to the public to get them interested in what you're producing. It is an enjoyable class, but it can be challenging at times," said sophomore Rebecca Flores.

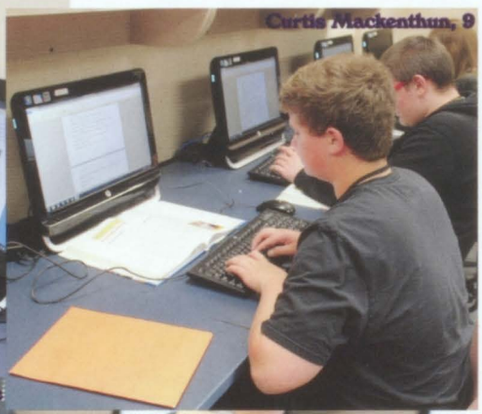
There is a variety of business classes to choose from: business math, intro to computer science, college career prep, personal finance, college entry prep, intro to business, accounting, and marketing. With that being said, some of those classes are mandatory to graduate, such as college career prep and personal finance. Students usually take those two classes during their freshmen or sophomore year. These classes are an efficient way of helping students get an idea of what they want to do in the future.

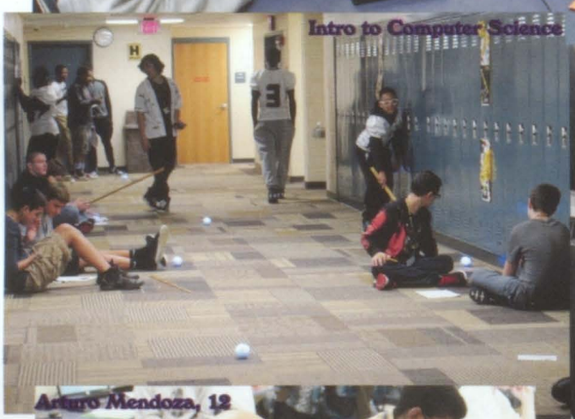
There is also college career prep and college entry prep that can help students choose where they would like to attend college. During junior year, students might take college entry prep which is a course to prepare for ACT's and SAT's. These two classes also help to extend one's search on college and career ideas. It allows students to find colleges that match not only their personality and major, but college that also fit in their price range.

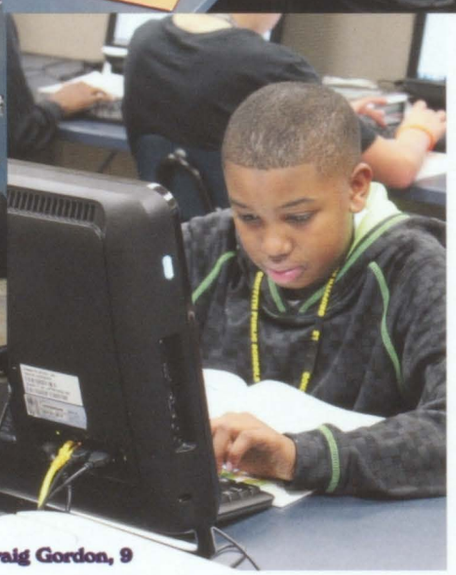
These business classes show students how to prepare for their future, especially if they're leaning toward a major in the business field. For example, in personal finance, students do a online simulation project that teaches students what it is like to be an adult and have finances and a job. This project gives students a chance to understand what they will be getting into in the future such as paying off college loans and other types of bills.

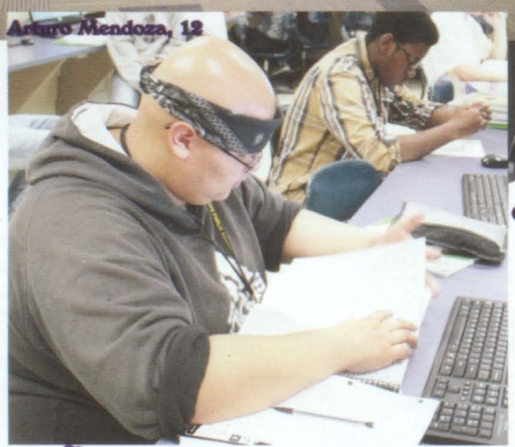
Overall, business is included in multiple jobs and getting prepared at an early age is the best way to be successful. Griffith High School's goal is to prepare students for life after high school, and taking electives in the business department is a way to get ahead in the game of life.


Matt McInerney, 11

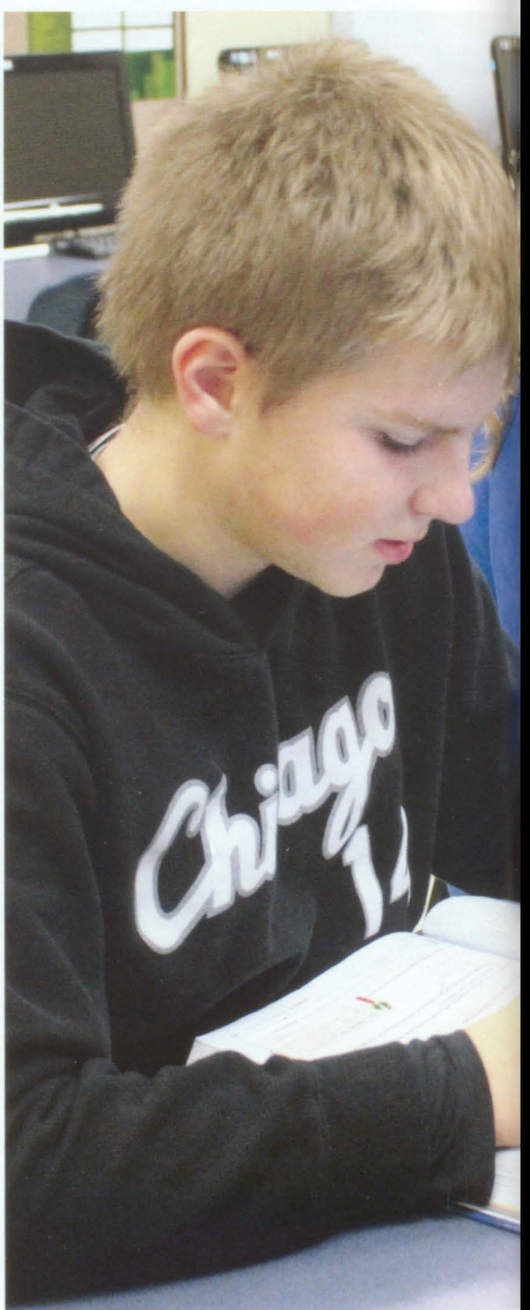

Curtis Mackenthun, 9

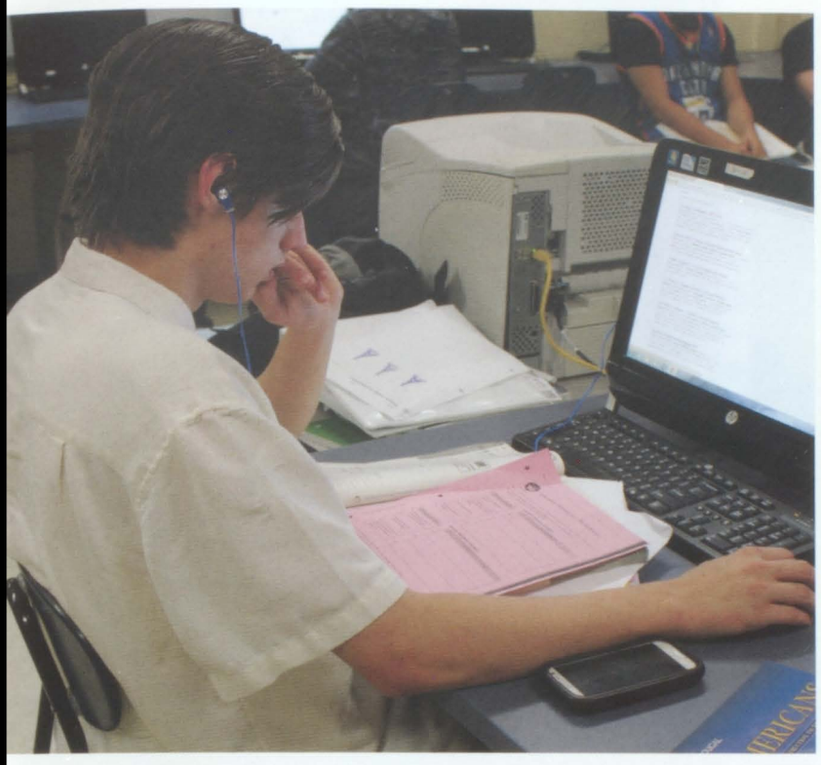

Intro to Computer Science


Craig Gordon, 9


Arturo Mendoza, 12

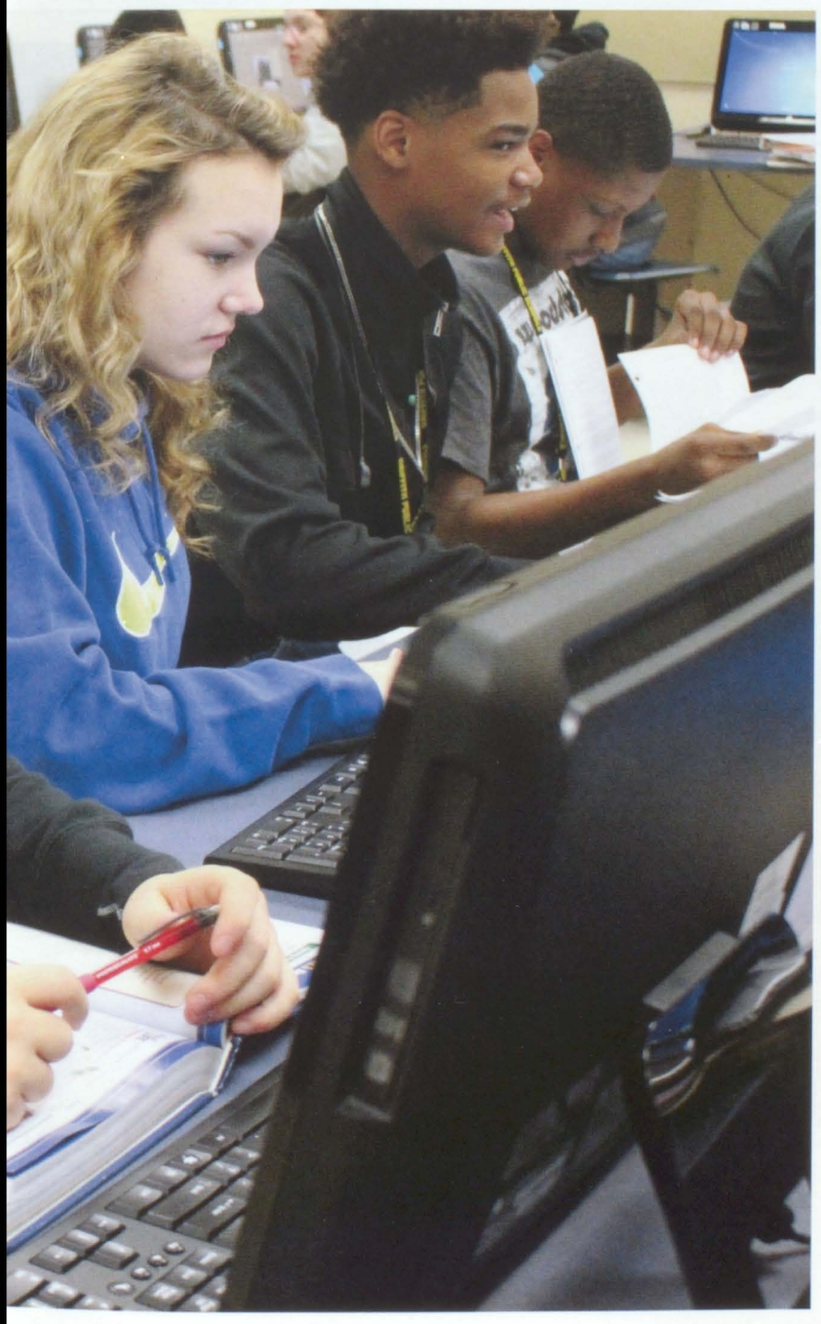
In intro to business, students learn how to create business plans and start their own business. "In intro to business, I improved my typing skills and I also learned the steps needed to start a business," said freshman Makenzie McKinney.





Researching information in marketing, junior Daniel Almaraz listens to music and completes his classwork. "I never really thought about this career path, but taking this class really got me to think about choosing this career," said Almaraz.

As sophomore Tyler Josephson sits in his business math class, he works to complete his book assignment and turn it in for a grade. "This class really teaches me what math skills I will need in the future," said Josephson.



Importance of Business

College Entry Prep

"College entry prep helps me review for the ACT/SAT so I am able to get a better score than if I didn't take any class to prepare for these kind of tests. It is an overall enjoyable class and it also helps me prepare for college and future college tests. Plus, I love Mr. Wheeler!"

Sam Snell, 11

Intro to Computer Science

"I was super excited when I found out our school offered a computer science class because that is what I want to major in. Technology is such a growing industry that business classes are essential to take to prepare for modern society. Taking the course gives you a hands on experience."

Evan Queen, 11

Marketing

"Marketing is an important class for GHS students because it allows us to understand how the whole 'marketing mix' works and how products are made, priced, and distributed throughout the world. I have learned a lot from taking a business class and I am glad I decided to take it."

Sean Bailey, 11

Using their skills to complete a construction assignment, seniors Isaiah Martinez and Michael Marsenic work together. "Our construction class keeps us busy and the hard work pushes us to do better," said Martinez.

While at the career center, senior Karli Taylor mixes together her ingredients for a recipe. "I have always loved to cook since I was a little girl. Taking the class has helped me improve my cooking skills and learn new things," said Taylor.

Looking Forward

"I still want to pursue cosmetology, but I do want to get my degree in graphic design. The Career Center is a great program to get your license or any type of certification for whatever field you're interested in, but as of right now I am all for cosmo and hope that it will take me somewhere in the future. I love to do hair and make-up and design things."

Tatyana Cima de Villa, 11

"The construction course I'm taking at the Area Career Center is so enjoyable. I have always had an interest in building things and making new structures. I haven't decided if I want to push forward with this after school just yet, but I am still thinking. It would be a career field that I would love to be in, so there's a good chance that I'll pursue it."

Austin Roberts, 12

"Being in the nursing field has been a dream of mine since I was little. I love to help others and make sure that they are feeling well. I have had family members that have been sick and I hated to sit there and watch them suffer. Knowing I could help people get well again is a big dream of mine that I hope I can one day achieve."

Brittany Shelley, 12

Future Goals

As the students sat and listened to the presentation about the Career Center and Ivy Tech classes towards the end of their sophomore year, they began to think of what they would like to do. The Career Center offers a variety of different courses involving many different careers and the Ivy Tech courses allows students to learn the fundamentals for their chosen career choice.

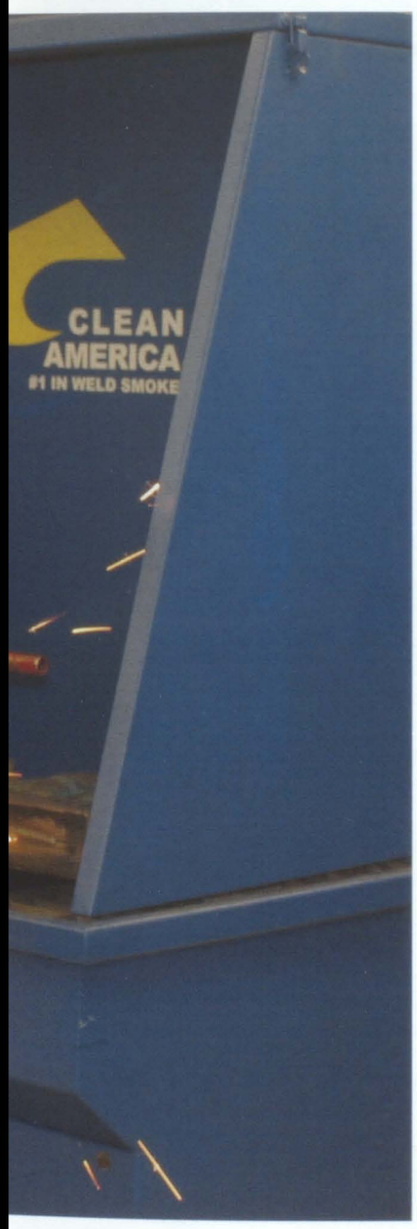
The Career Center offers many different classes for the students. These included culinary, nursing, cosmetology, and mechanic/shop class. Taking those classes allowed students to have an inside look at how each course worked.

"I love my cosmetology class. I have always liked to do my make up and hair, but I wasn't very good at it. When I heard about the course during the Career Center presentation, I instantly knew what I wanted to do. Since I have started the course I have improved so much with makeup and hair techniques. I have also learned many new things and I practice them on myself and others everyday. I even cut my brother's hair now and he loves it," said junior Maxine Carroll.

Ivy Tech is another way that students are able to take their education beyond the high school level. Ivy Tech allows students, mostly upperclassmen, to go and spend two hours in a classroom for college credits. In the class, the students were taught by college professors and had experiences similar to what it would be like in college.

There were other ways students helped the way they learned. Many students joined study groups where they met with their teachers after school and discussed questions they had with their homework or that day's lesson. Others made their own study groups, which involved a group of students meeting at one's house, or various locations around the town such as McDonald's and Grindhouse.

Multiple teachers took a different approach to help teach students. They prepared games and special activities for their students to do in class. Mixing activities and education together gave students a break from the usual classroom lectures or notes. Most teachers did this for finals week to allow their students to review in a creative and less stressful way. These courses helped many students go on to do their dream careers or helped them figure out what they want to do with their future.

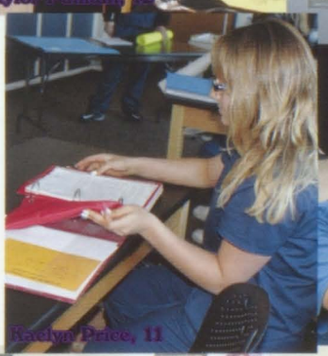


In her Ivy Tech class, senior Shamyra Fitzpatrick focuses on finishing her assignment. "Ivy Tech was an eye opening experience about college. It showed me that nobody was going to get on me about doing my work," said Fitzpatrick.

Working hard in his welding class, senior Cory Horton takes advantage of the opportunities offered at the Area Career Center. "I've always enjoyed working with machines and building or fixing things," said Horton.

Taylor Pulliam, 12

Kasey Tinsley, 11


Kaelyn Price, 11

Luke Reid, 11

JC & Cosmetology

Sophomores

Inspired By...

Patrick Land, 10

"I'm not a big fan of basketball, but I am inspired by Michael Jordan. He inspires me because he got kicked off his high school basketball team. He never stopped practicing until he was able to prove to his coach that he was 'the best'. His hard work lead to him being a really good player in the NBA. He taught me to never give up."

Mary Lesko, 10

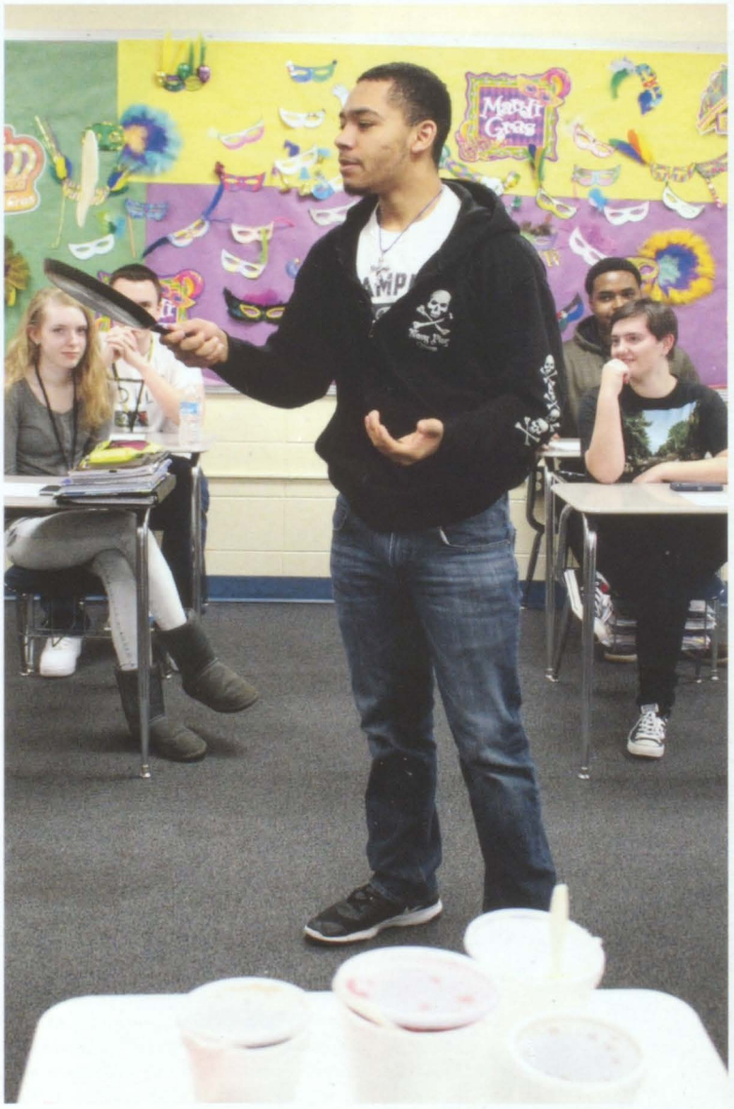
"The person that inspires me most would have to be my mom. She is a really hard worker and is always dedicated to anything she wants to accomplish. She is also a very loving person and never gives up on us kids. She is always there to help us when we're down and make us feel better. She makes me want to be like her in the future."

McGwire Adams
Matthew Alvarez

Islam Amara
Caelyn Aranda

Trinity Austin
Joshua Bacon

As sophomore Hailey Moore is working hard in her art class, she tests a different way to paint. "I love painting class. It helps me to be able to express myself and my personal sense of art. I love to get creative," said Moore.

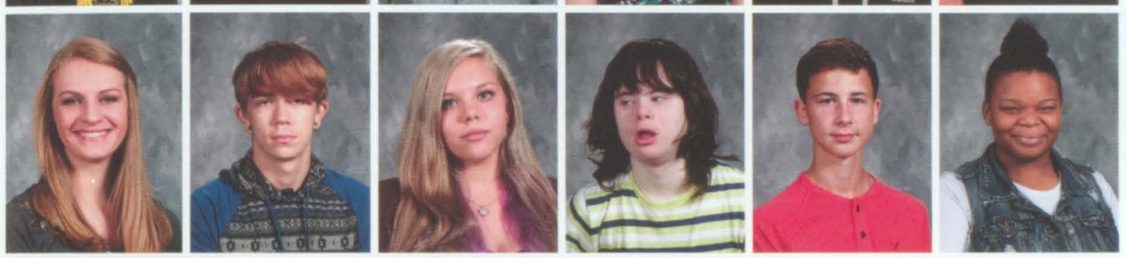


Celebrating Mardi Gras in French class, sophomore Anthony Compton shows how the French celebrate this day. "My favorite part of this day was getting to take a break from school work and being able to make food and enjoy it," said Compton.

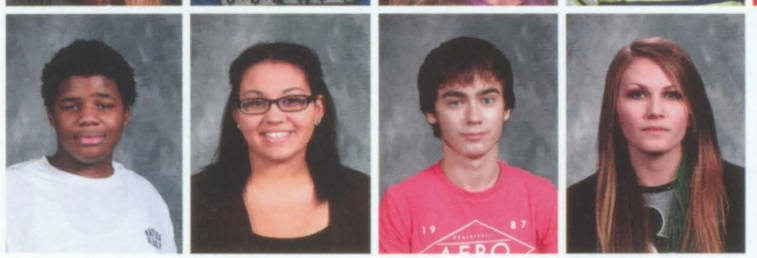
Karissa Baker
Cassandra Barnaby
Allison Biancardi
Cameron Bobos
Cole Bocock
Mariah Bolden

Delia Booker
Molly Bradford
Britney Brady
Jose Bugarin
Daniel Burbridge
Kyle Cartwright

Kadafi Coleman
Anthony Compton
Jared Cottrell
Thalia Cuadra-Gandara
Jacob Damski
Jazaria Daniels



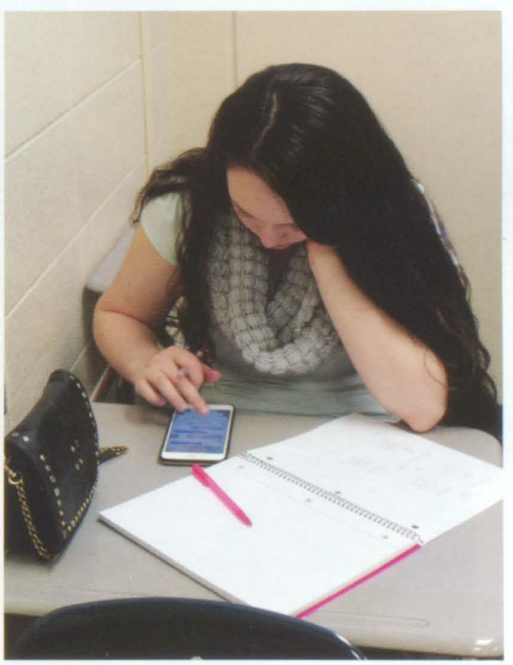
Skylar Davenport
Robert Davis
Lily Desler
Conner Diamantopoulos
Jacob Diamond
Christina Dorsey



Christopher Dorsey
Mikaela Dragus
Gabriel Dudlicek
Jolie Dunn

"This was definitely a day to remember. I like to spray paint stuff on the float, although that part was fun, my favorite thing to do was to eat the pizza," said sophomore Merry Galindo. Galindo tapes the float to mark the painting lines.

After finishing all of her classwork, sophomore Carrieanna Chumbley uses her spare time on her phone. "My favorite thing to do on my phone is to go on social media, mostly Snapchat, because I like watching people's stories," said Chumbley.



Scott Dybel
Jake Dye
Leah Dye
Christian Dyson
Alexis Engle
Shawn Falstrom

Brett Faucault
Zachary Fisch
Storm Fleming
Rebecca Flores
Bailey Gaffney
Adolpho Galan

Merry Galindo
Alexis Gardner
Haley Gearhart
Taylor Grady
Shawn Graham
Maurice Grandberry

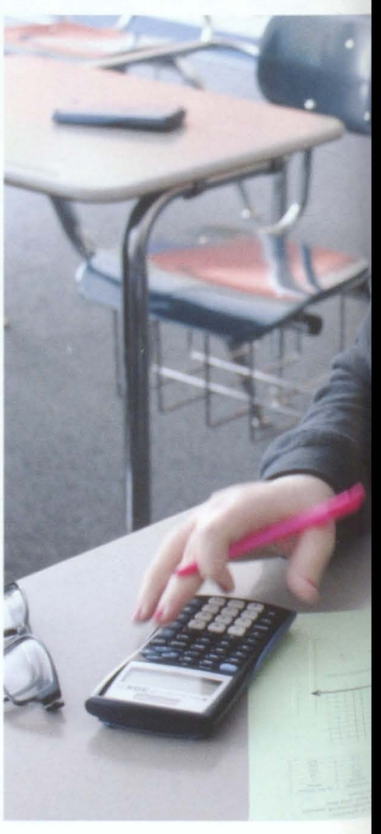
Pedro Guerrero
Robert Gunty
Marcelino Gutierrez
Shadi Haddad
Luke Haney
William Hansen

Amari Harris
Aarion Harvey
Deaaron Harvey
Aujanee Hendricks
Zaria Henley
Nicholas Herrera

Allen Huff
Benjamin Jacobs
Tyler Jennings
Alexis Johnson

In Magaret Rivera's class, sophomore students Lily Desler and Lacey Shipp work on a water color painting booklet. "I was painting with cake and liquid watercolors. The liquids were my favorite because they were brighter colors," said Desler.

"My favorite part of math class is getting off topic with Miss Cohen and talking about funny stuff, becuase you aren't learning the entire time," said sophomore Makenna Sons. Sons finishes a math problem during a class discussion.



As she sits in the back of the class, sophomore Brianna Saucedo works on her assignment in Nanette Naranjo's Spanish II class. "Mrs. Naranjo makes class really interesting and we get a lot of time to work on our homework," said Saucedo.

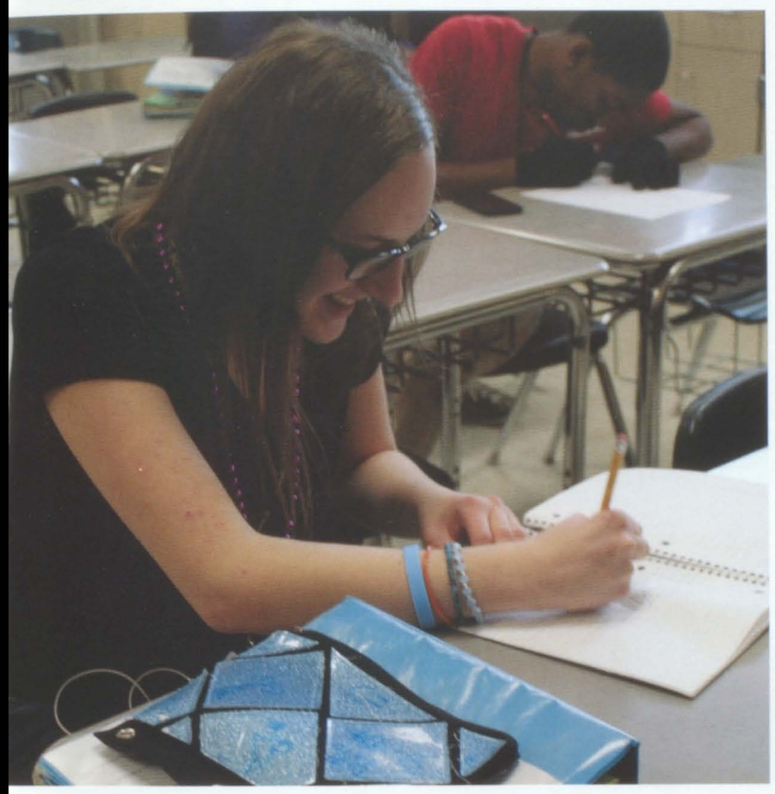
Best Memories...

"For me, my best sophomore memory is joining drama for the first time and meeting all of the nice people in drama. This is the first major club and activity I have ever been in. Drama has been a really good opportunity for me to express myself and find other people that like the same things as me and have the same talents as me. I love to act and perform and I am glad I get to do that in drama."

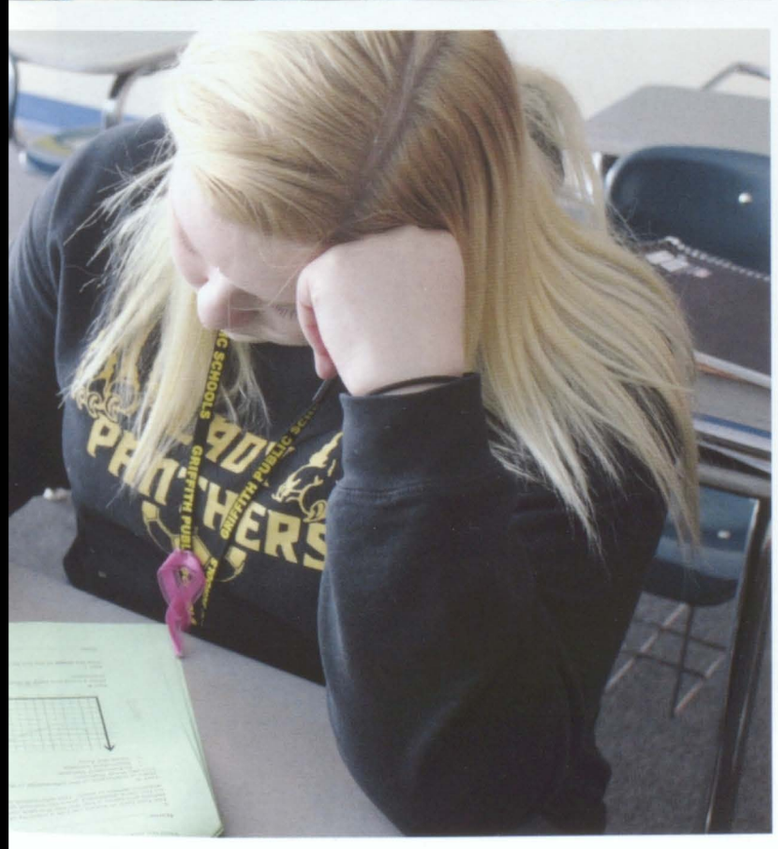
Kyle McCarter, 10

"My favorite memory from sophomore year was when I was at the homecoming game with my friends. I really liked being there at the game with them. It was really cold out and we had a good time wrapped up in many blankets, taking selfies, eating nachos and hot dogs, and enjoying the game together. Everyone was really happy and everyone felt it in the atmosphere. It was an interesting game to watch."

Bailey Gaffney, 10



Working on her vocab, sophomore Sara Purcell completes her assignment in Jennifer Bullard's biology class. "I really like vocab because it's easy and it gives you a preview of the lesson we are about to learn about," said Purcell.



"I was building the London eye for our float. The float really caught people's attention," said sophomore Thomas Perez. He was taking part in building the float that the sophomore class council was creating for the parade.

Giovantae Johnson
George Jones
Tatum Josephson
Tyler Josephson
Nathan Klingensmith
Lindsay Krajnik

Kacie Kruhaj
Madeline Kruse
Stephen Kunka
Bobby Lacy
Morgan Ladendorf
Patrick Land

John Lawson
Leslie Leon-Aguilar
Mary Lesko
Katelyn Leslie
Austin Lomax
Jessica Lopez

Class Clowns

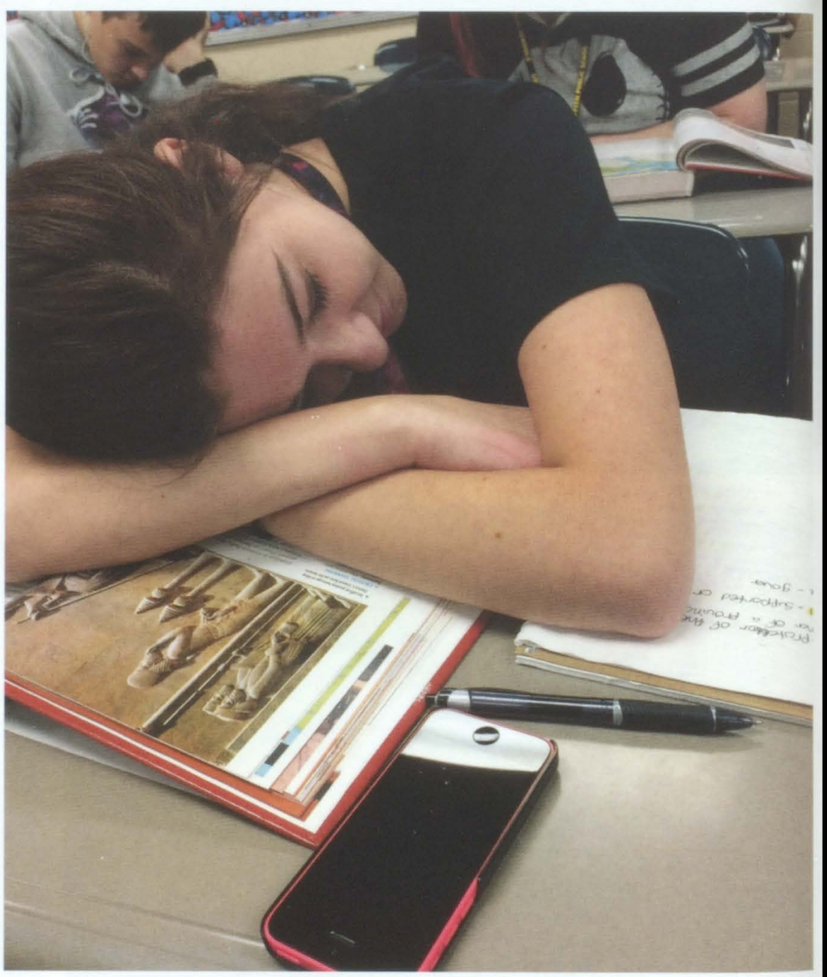
Tayvien Walker, 10

"In French II, I always walk in the classroom with my headphones blasting before the bell rings. Well on this specific day, Madame walked in the classroom while I was twerking right in front of her. She was literally standing behind me for a good two minutes before I noticed her behind me. The whole class was laughing, even Madame. It's always a great time in her class."

Victoria Perez, 10

"In Tim McCoy's geometry class, we were in the middle of taking a test and I had a question. So I have my hand raised and Mr. McCoy just ignored me. I found a squishy ball and I threw it at him so I could get his attention. It was the funniest thing ever. The whole class was laughing. There was never a dull moment in Mr. McCoy's class. Everyone was always joking around with somebody."

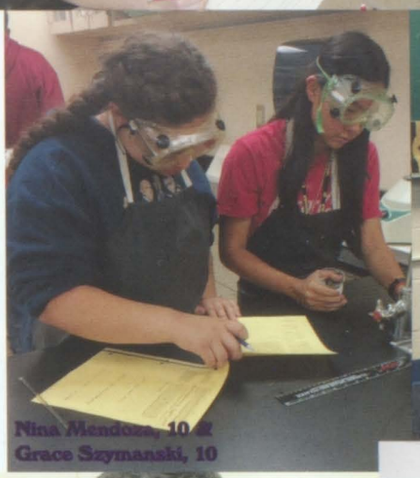
At the Career Center tour, sophomores Sierra Slaven and Linzie Bytnar quickly learn about dying hair on a mannequin. "This tour was really helpful and now I've decided that I actually want to go to the Career Center," said Slaven.

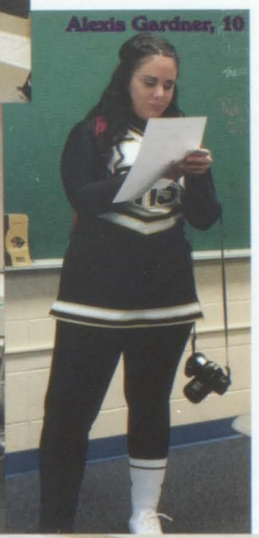


While laying her head down during world history, sophomore Emily Marsh takes a break from notes. "It gets very tiring after taking notes for a long time. My hand starts to hurt as well. Resting my head and hand for a bit is perfect," said Marsh.

For the homecoming parade, sophomores Skylar Davenport, Jacob Diamond, Laura Reid, and Erica Ward represent their sophomore class. "Walking in the parade representing my class was a great experience and it was also super hot," said Reid.

Taylor Gaddy, 10 & Bella Booker, 10


Nina Mendoza, 10 &
Grace Szymanski, 10


Alexis Gardner, 10

Christian Rivera, 10

Rafael Valencia, 10

Kylie Maloney
Christopher Mares
Trevor Marlow
Marcus Marquand
Emily Marsh
Erik Martinez

Veronica Matthews
Eric Mazzone
Kyle McCarter
Thomas McCarthy
Adonise McCully
Maxwell McLean

Collin Meadows
Nina Mendoza
Alexis Metcalf
Victoria Metcalf

In Sara Novak's International Foods class, sophomore India Tillman makes johnnycakes in a group with sophomore Zach Fisch. "I love to make food. I would definitely make johnnycakes at home because they're delicious," said Tillman.

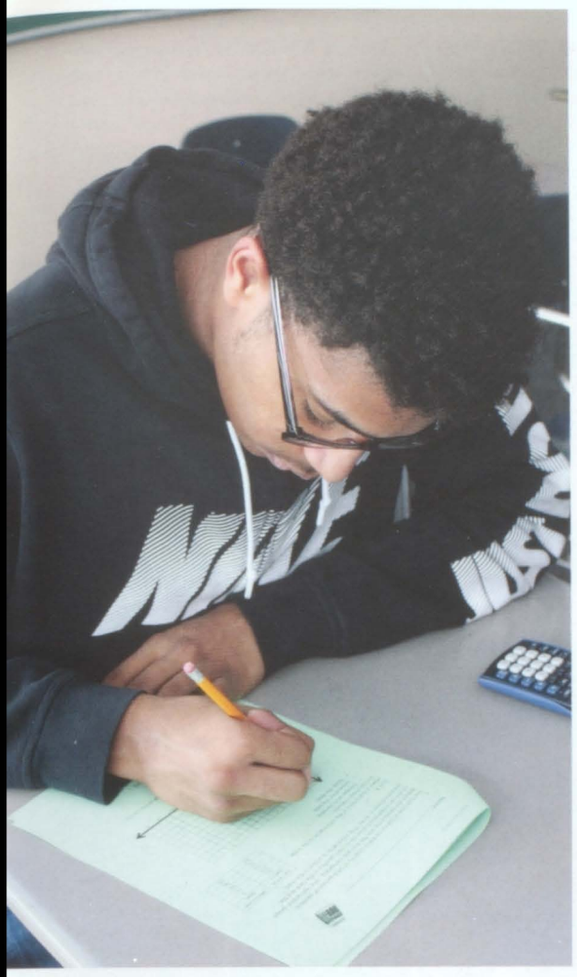
As she makes a pot in ceramics, sophomore Zaria Henley works hard to get an "A" on this assignment. "I enjoy participating in this class because I'm able to use my creative skills that I will most likely use in my adult life," said Henley.

Angelica Meyer
Sedrick Miles
James Mines
Hailey Moore
Clarissa Mosely
Justin Moyo

Alaa Mroueh
Santiago Muro-Murillo
Brian Narug
Tyler Nguyen
Kevin Novak
Ethan O'Brien

Jeremy Paganelli
Samantha Pelot
Kaylyn Perez
Matthew Perez
Thomas Perez
Victoria Perez

Elizabeth Perkovich
Maegan Perkovich
Makiyah Perry-Bell
Matthew Pierson
Trenton Pulliam
Sarah Purcell



As he completes an ISTEP packet, sophomore Matthew Pierson practices to ace this year's test. "I did well on previous Isteps and I think it was because of the practice that I did in the weeks leading up to the test," Pierson said.

In their French III class, sophomores Lindsay Krajnik and Ben Jacobs work on a Mardi Gras float. "The project took a couple days to complete. Everyone worked frantically in and out of class to brainstorm ideas," said Krajnik.

Study Habits

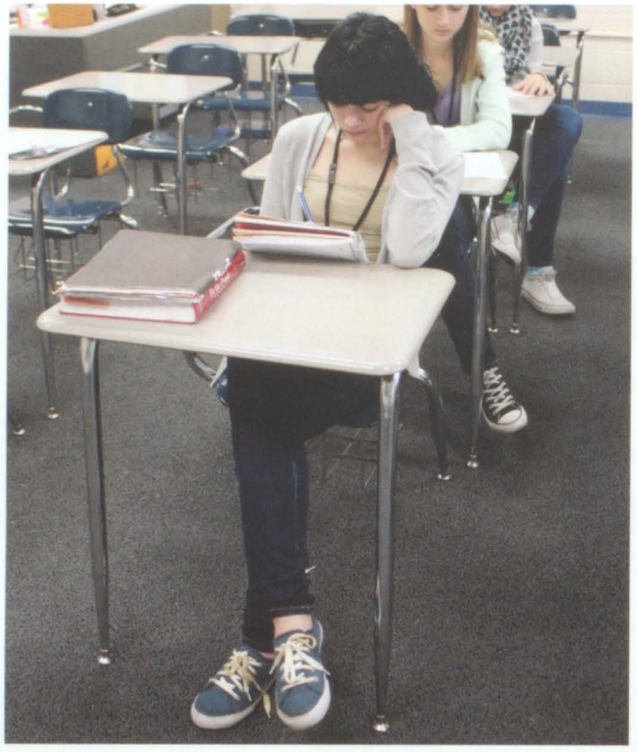
"Sometimes, I make my own biology test to help myself prepare for an upcoming test. What I do is write down questions from the study guide, and then answer them on my own. If I get the answer wrong, then I know I would need to study more. For vocab tests, I make flashcards a couple days before and I test my friends to make sure we all know the material. I feel that if you study the correct material that is going to be on the test, then you will do well. Studying with friends is better than studying alone because you can learn off each other and they make you want to learn more. I care strongly about my grades and sometimes you have to study in unusual ways to make the content stick in your head. This way, you will find the test easier and you won't have to stress out that much."
Jada Robertson, 10

Gabrielle Quintana

Zachery Raglin
Hannah Ramirez
Laura Reid
Samantha Rettie
Christian Rivera
Jada Roberson

Trace Robertson
Adrian Rodriguez
Angelika Rodriguez
Anthony Rodriguez
Xavier Romero
Jesse Rosario

Julian Rutherford
Anna Saberniak
Brianna Saucedo
Christian Schafer
Alicia Schoon
Brandon Shamblee



While taking notes in Luann Pramuk's APUSH class, sophomore Elizabeth Perkovich makes the most of her quiet time. "This class is very difficult, but Mrs. Pramuk is a great teacher and she explains our topics very well," said Perkovich.

During B lunch, sophomores Gabby Quintana and Angel Meyer talk about their classes and the food that was served that day. "Angel and I have lots of great conversations about our day and how school is going. It's relaxing," said Quintana.

Breanne Shipp
Lacey Shipp
Mikensie Shultman
Sierra Slaven
Anthony Slawikowski
Courtney Smith

Yamia Smith
Hunter Smolen
Khuslen Solongo
Makenna Sons
Jennie Stas
Samuel Stassin

Zachary Steele
Alizjah Stokes
Luke Sutherland
Kyle Sutton
Grace Szymanski
Matthew Thomas

India Tillman
Marisol Trout
Marcus Tucker
Derion Unger
Jaylene Valdivia
Rafael Valencia

Giselle Valentin
Zackary Valiquet
Jesus Vazquez
Leah Vuckovich
Deleah Walker
Tayvien Walker

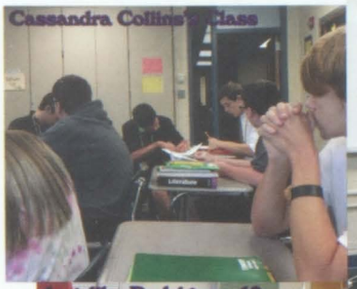
Biggest Pet Peeves

Kevin Novak, 10

"My biggest pet peeve is nearly getting a perfect on an assignment or test, but making a small mistake. Getting perfects makes me feel accomplished, but when I see that I missed one or two because of silly mistakes, I get agitated and annoyed. Deep down, I know that if I read more carefully and taken my time, I would have had a perfect score, but I guess not everyone can be one hundred percent perfect. So to avoid that, I've started to read over my tests and answers more carefully."

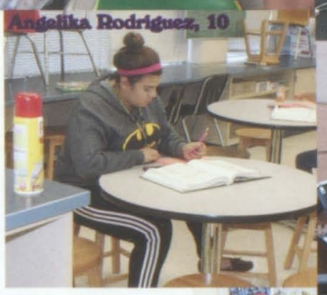
Makiyah Perry-Bell, 10

"I really dislike slow walkers and people who stand in the middle of the hallways during the passing periods. I'm a fast walker and getting to class on time is important to me, but then those people get in the way. I can never find a quick or easy way to get around them, and most are rude when you ask for them to move or walk faster. It really gets on my nerves when the halls are crowded because of people standing around their friends or the stairs. It motivates me to not be a rude slow walker."



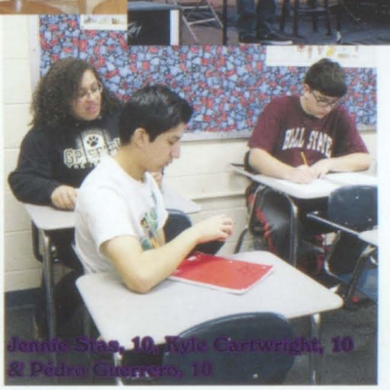
Cassandra Collins's class

Courtney Smith, 10



Angelika Rodriguez, 10

Jesse Rosario, 10

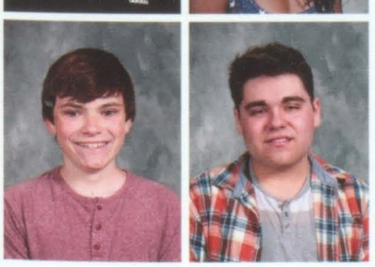


Jennie Stas, 10, Kyle Cartwright, 10 & Pedro Guerrero, 10

In Sara Novak's International Foods class, sophmores Zack Steele and Christan Schafer fried up some johnnycakes. "We learn a lot of techniques and styles from all over the world, which we can then use at home," said Steele.

Marrissa Walter
Justin Walton
Erica Ward
Dejauviae Ward Hickman
Daniel Welch
Mark Whitlock

Damian Wilfong
Jahmara Williams
Kiante Williams
Megan Wilson
Zechariah Winchester
Fredrick Winston



Garrett Zambo
Kevin Zaragoza

Chapter 3

Once students adapted back to their early morning alarms and homework schedules after winter break, GHS resumed business as usual. Students returned to their first hour, first semester class in order to receive their new schedules for the remaining two quarters of the 2015-2016 year on January 4, 2016. While getting used to their new classes, the student body eagerly waited for spring break to arrive along with the various events that occurred throughout the third quarter.

In the morning on January 25, 2016, Heartland Blood Center came to Griffith and hosted Student Council's annual blood drive in the main gym. NHS and Student Council members volunteered at the event in order to complete their required service hours.

Students also received a three day weekend in the middle of January in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and a four day weekend in February. Another event that occurred was an extended break from school due to snow days. On February 24th and 25th, Griffith students observed precautionary measures as the threat of snow swept Indiana. Because of this, two days were added onto the end of the school year.

Some changes occurred in the teaching staff as well. After more than thirty years of teaching at Griffith, English teacher Sheila Vaclavik retired and moved to Pennsylvania to pursue her dream career of becoming a youth minister. Filling her spot was Jennafer Beasley.

On January 29, 2016, the halls of Avalon Manor filled up with girls and boys of all grades for the annual Turnabout dance. This year, the sophomore class decided on the theme "A Moment Like This" based on the song by Kelly Clarkson. Tickets were $30 for a single person and couple's tickets were $50.

Girl's and boy's basketball continued through winter break and into the third quarter. The girls finished 6th in the Hanover Central Winter Classic tournament and the boys took first at the Highland tournament.

FCCLA continued with their community service projects focused on the Riley's kids. The members who traveled to the hospital and participated in the Dancing with the Panthers event were given the opportunity to take a trip back to the hospital in Indianapolis. Theresa Neal, FACS, also planned for her members to volunteer in a local soup kitchen. Along with FCCLA, Jim Pickett's Advanced Placement Government classes and Luann Pramuk's APUSH classes traveled down to the Indianapolis Senate house on February 4, 2016. Students attending the field trip were required to wake up at 4 a.m. and didn't return to Griffith until 5 p.m.

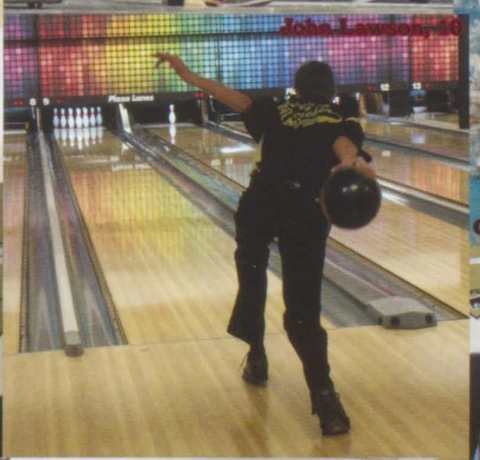
Sitting in their Chemistry II class, juniors Luke Pospychala and Carlos Lopez talk after their lab. "Luke and I are friends because of soccer and we also went to Beiriger together so it's nice to still have classes with him in high school," said Lopez.

GHS Choir

Allexyss Green, 9 & Courtany Cobb, 11

Nick Conti, 12

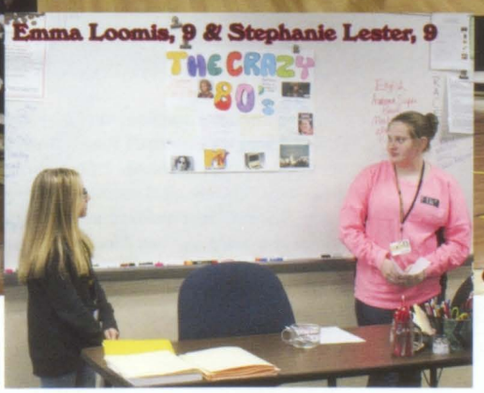
Gabe Dunbar, 10



John Lawson, 10

Girls' Swimming

Boys' Basketball



Emma Loomis, 9 & Stephanie Lester, 9

Girls' Basketball

Panther Spirit

Dressing up and face painting was just the beginning of super fanning at games in the student sections. One thing that Griffith was known for the past few years was the student sections. The student sections got the crowd and players pumped and ready for the game and kept the confidence levels high. Most games had a theme that went along with the opponent that would be played that night. The weekly themes were usually made up by the senior class through a Facebook page.

"For each game, the senior class tried to pick a different theme to make the game more exciting for both the fans and the players. The players are always excited to hear what the student section has planned for them, especially when they have their big games," said senior Sammy Issa.

Some well known themes that were sported in the student section were blackout, beach theme, and toga. Over the past years, the students have incorporated other themes such as mix-match, camo, whiteout, and neon. Normally, the kick off game of the season to any sporting event at GHS has a blackout theme for the student section.

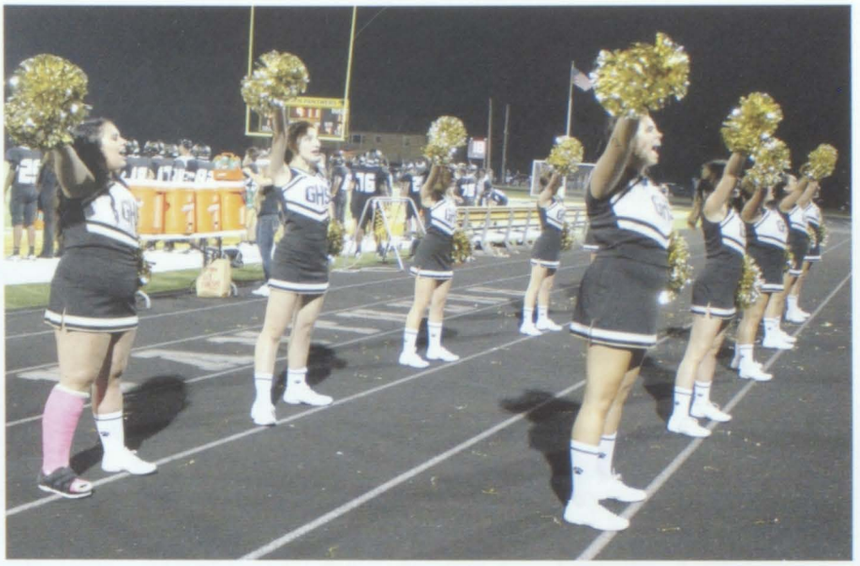
Having school pride doesn't always necessarily happen at games. Each day there was at least one student that walked through the doors wearing a clothing item that represented Griffith.

Another way that the students showed school spirit was during homecoming spirit week. The students had the option to dress up for various days throughout the week and during the pep rally. The themes for each day were chosen by the members of student council. Also, the seniors came up with a list for themselves to show their individual spirit as a graduating class. Prior to the pep rally, students were able to sign up for a wide range of activities that took place that Friday during school. During the pep rally, the Pantherettes and cheerleaders performed and showed school spirit.

"I think that having a spirit week is a great way to demonstrate our school spirit. The different dress up days that student council chooses are always amusing and it's exciting to see how other people dress up to show their Panther pride," said junior Megan Madrigal.

In the student section, the fans get ready for the basketball team to play Westside High School. "The game was very intense and exciting. I love being apart of the student section because it makes me feel like I'm in the game," said senior Brandon Collett.

Waiting for school to end so he could leave for bowling state, senior Gage Corona sports his Panther apparel. "It's so important to show support for your team because you never want anyone to put their head down and give up," said Corona.



As the Panthers play under the Friday night lights against Munster, the cheerleaders get the crowd pumped. "It's exciting for me to be in cheerleading; we all have a great time getting the crowd ready for the game," said junior Justine Martinez.

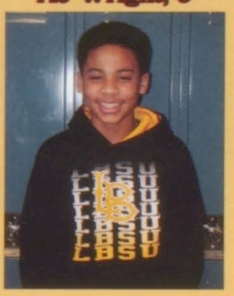
How True Are You?

Leah Dye, 11

"The fan section gets more amusing each and every game. It's always loud and cheerful which creates an enjoyable atmosphere for the fans and the players. My favorite part of the student section would have to be the chants. The seniors always think of new and exciting chants to say during the game that really liven the crowd. I look forward to the themes of each game because I enjoy dressing up to show my school spirit. Blackout is my favorite theme because it's simple to do and it's easy for everyone to take part in it."

"The student section is something we all look forward to for games. It's always loud and exciting and it gets everyone pumped for the game. I feel like the more supportive the student section is effects how the players perform, because they want to make us proud. There are always new and exciting themes to expect for each game, my favorite theme would be black and gold in dedication of Sonny. For me, the most important part of the games are the big wins, because we all want to make it far and make it to state."

AJ Wright, 9



Sabrina Garcia, 12

"The chants that us seniors think of are probably my favorite part of the student section. I like when we do the roller coaster and when we chant "I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL WIN", because it gets the entire crowed super pumped. There has never been a dull game. Them winning makes the rest of the season exciting to look forward to. The big games are always the most interesting to go to, because there is so much pressure on not only the players but the fans too, because we expect them to bring home a win."

Turnabout

On January 29, 2016, the sophomore class council presented "A Moment Like This" by Kelly Clarkson as the theme song for this year's Turnabout. Doors for the dance opened at 6:30 P.M., while the dance began at seven. Turnabout was held at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. To match the theme, the sophomore class chose purple, silver, and sheer accent colors. Tickets for the dance increased from $40 per couple and $25 for a single person to $50 per couples and $35 for a single person. This year's DJ was "The Music Boyz" who also plays at Prom each year. Food such as wings, jalapeño poppers, fruit trays, mozzarella sticks, and other appetizers were provided for students to munch on during the dance.

Students were able to leave school before or after their sixth hour classes depending on which lunch they had. Hair, nail, and makeup appointments are scheduled for this day. Flowers, boutineers, and corsages are picked up. Students typically take pictures with their date and/or group before the dance.

The Turnabout Court included sophomore girls and boys Trinity Austin and Jake Dye, Kacie Kruhaj and Erik Martinez, Alexis Engle and Shawn Falstrom, Tatum Josephson and Shawn Graham, and Erica Ward and Kyle Sutton. The 2016 prince and princess, Jake Dye and Trinity Austin, were crowned by the 2015 prince and princess, juniors Joey Martoccio and Dana Jelenski.

"I was sort of shocked to hear my name announced for court. It wasn't a big deal for me but I enjoyed taking the funny court pictures with my partner Erica," said Sutton.

Once the dance was over many students stayed local while others went to Chicago. A party bus, limo, or car was the typical means of transportation this year. Students also engaged in activities after, such as going to eat, walking around Chicago, or going bowling.

"My group went to the Cheesecake Factory after the dance on a party bus. This was my first Turnabout and it was very memorable because of my friends. The funniest thing that happened was after the Cheesecake Factory the driver took us back to Avalon Manor instead of our friends house," said freshman Aary Cano.

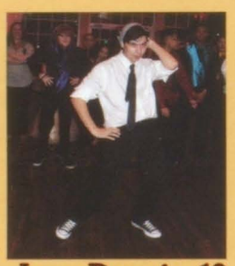
Turnabout is usually held on the weekend of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, but unfortunately this year it did not land on that weekend.

Fancy Footwork

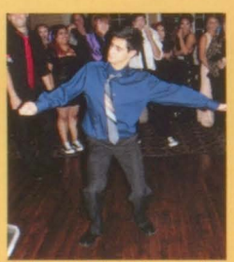
"The dance was pretty cool. I enjoyed hanging out with my basketball teammates and my date that night. Going in the middle of the dance floor was the main part of Turnabout. I was in there acting like a fool while watching everyone else recording me. That's what I'll remember most about this dance."

Kelston Haden, 12

"I feel like I drank too much pop before I went on the dance floor. I figured I spent money on this dance, so I might as well have a nice time during it. I think I looked rambunctious compared to the other dancers before and after me. I tried multiple different dance moves. I also tried to breakdance for the first time."

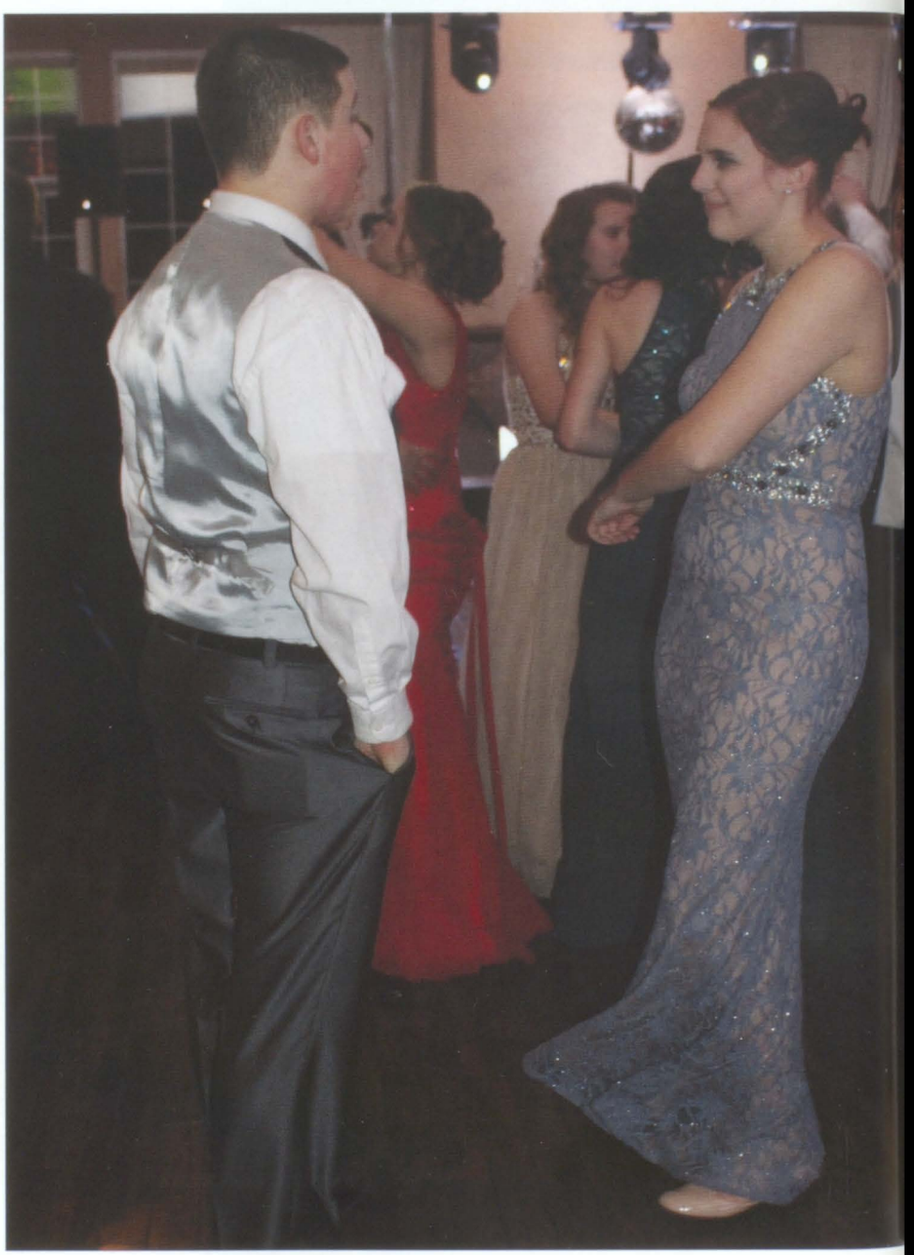


Jesse Rosario, 10



"I didn't expect to be pushed into the middle of the dance floor by my friend, Kyle Sutton, but once I was in the middle I went crazy. Being in the middle of the dance floor was the best moment from Turnabout. I barely even remember what dance moves I did while I was out there. It's something I'll look back and laugh at."

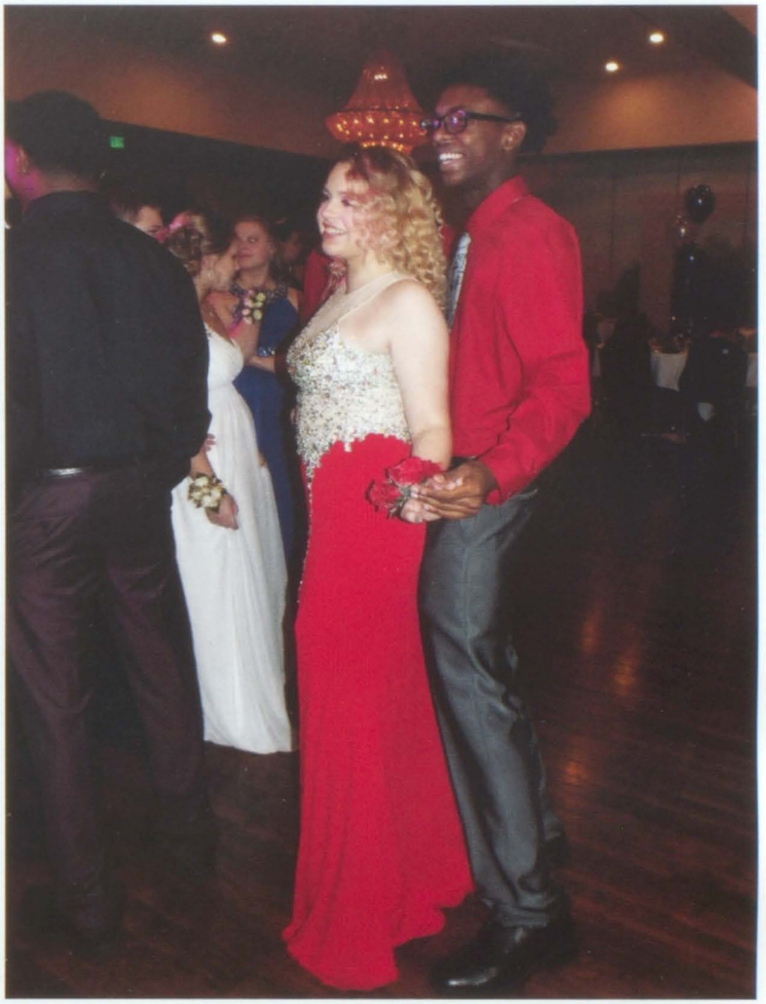
Shadi Haddad, 10



After finishing a dance, sophomores Kevin Novak and Mary Lesko talk about what they're going to do after the dance. "I had a great time at Turnabout with my date. After the dance, we went out to eat with the rest of our group," said Novak.

Showing his skills, senior Jamie Thomas dances in the middle of the floor while everyone surrounds him. Sophomore Giselle Valentin begins to record this moment. "The dancing in the middle was the highlight of Turnabout," said Valentin.

At the dance, freshmen Amanda Haley and Joenathan King smile on the dance floor. "This was my first year at Griffith and I really enjoyed the dance with my date. Afterwards, we went out to eat at Around the Clock," said King.

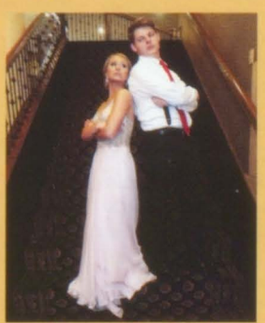


Going to get her hair professionally done, freshman Haley Dixon looks in the mirror and waits for her stylist to put on the finishing touches. "I went in to Don Roberts with a hairstyle on my phone and they did it exactly how I wanted," said Dixon.

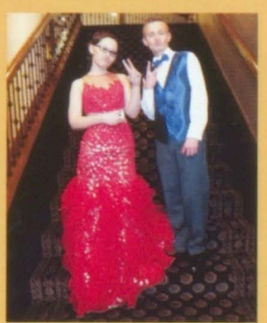
Turnabout Court

Trinity Austin & Jake Dye

Kacie Kruhaj & Erik Martinez



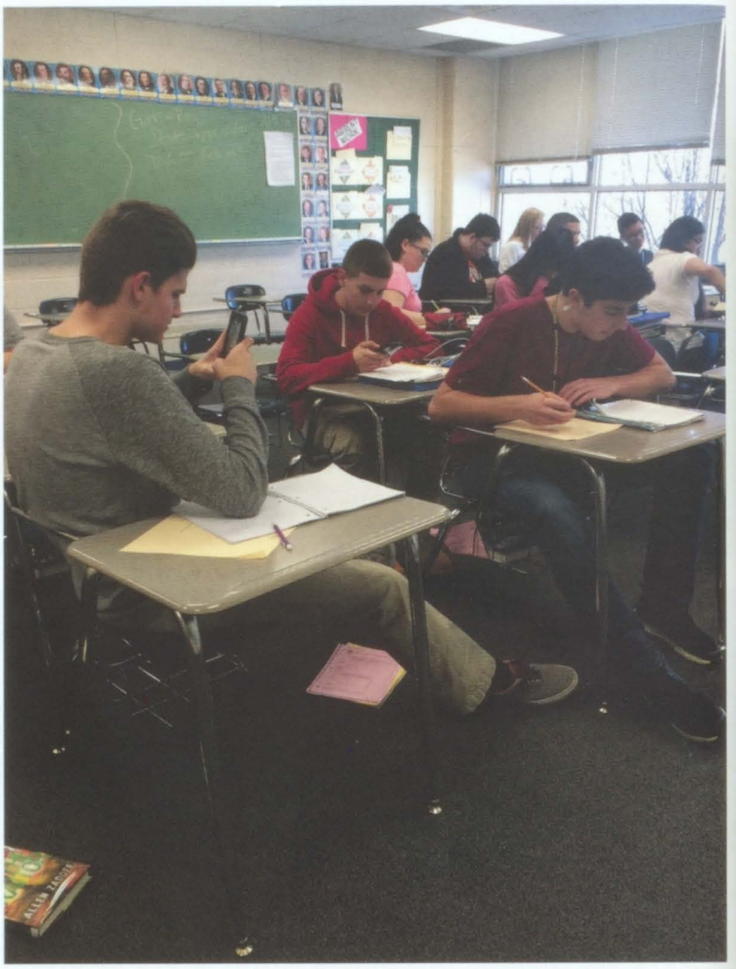
Alexis Engle & Shawn Falstrom



Tatum Josephson & Shawn Graham

Erica Ward & Kyle Sutton

Stayin' in Style



Using the new app, sophomore Jake Dye takes a PHHHOTO of junior Zac Hilgeman in Luann Pramuk's U.S. History. "Zac looked so focused on his work I wanted to make a dope PHHHOTO of him looking studious," said Dye.

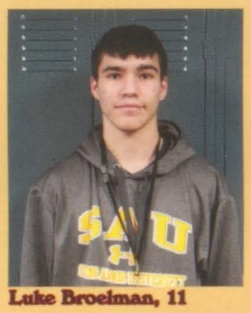
App-solutely Trendy

Caroline Loughren, 12

"Snapchat is by far my favorite app out there. I love making funny stories for people to watch and I love watching other people's stories. Sometimes they are way too long and it makes me mad. Also, I love the new filters that they have because they make the snaps you can send ten times more funny than before. My favorite thing about Snapchat is that I can send my friends ugly pictures and videos to make them laugh and I'll always get an ugly response back."

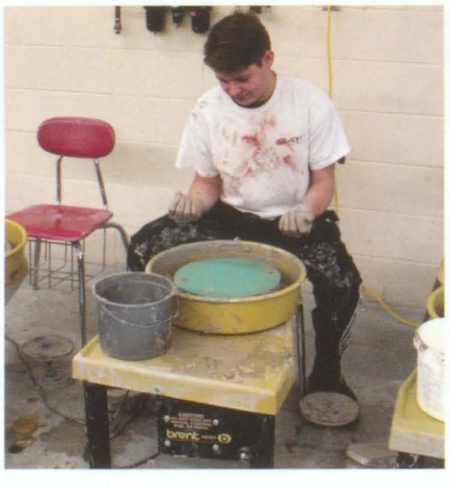
Camryn Sinars, 9

"My two favorite apps are Instagram and Twitter. I love to go on twitter to see what everyone is doing with their lives and watch all the funny videos that are on my time line. I like to go on to Instagram so I can see what's going on with all of my friends. I follow a lot of celebrities on those apps too, like Kylie Jenner. I use her app a lot for different make-up tutorials and outfit inspiration. I play the Kim K. game and I can't wait for Kendall and Kylie's new game to come out."



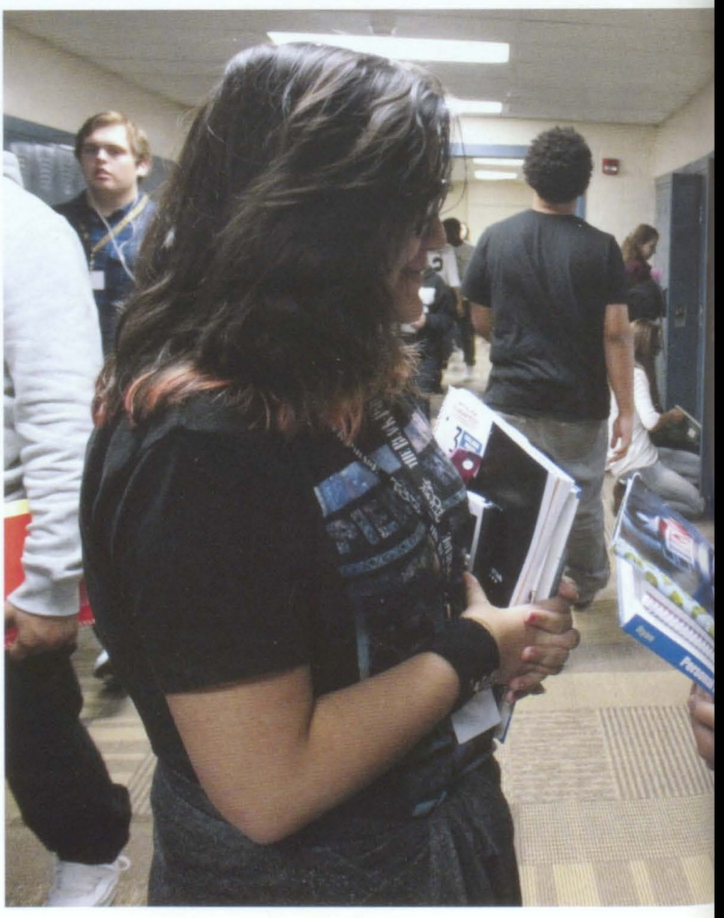
Luke Broelman, 11

"My favorite app to use is Twitter because it's a good way to waste my time and get distracted. I also like to see if there is 'twitter beef' between people at the school because it's always funny to watch. I like to watch all the funny videos, because I'll see them and then my mom will show me them like a month later, but I still have to act like it's funny and I act like I haven't seen it. The pictures people put on Twitter can be really funny too. The captions are always clever."

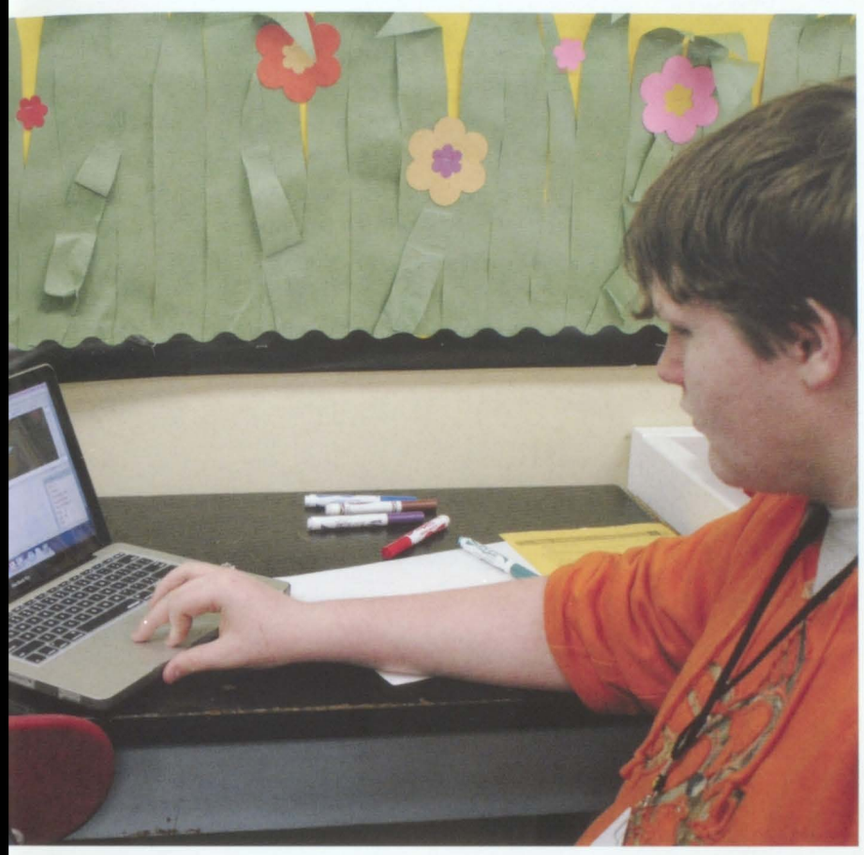


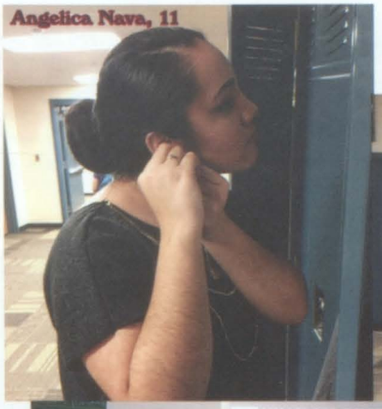
In Jim Graff's ceramics class, sophomore Shawn Falstrom gets messy while sculpting. "I change my clothes so that I don't get my clothes dirty. I'm glad that I get to change my clothes so I don't look dirty and nasty all day," said Falstrom.

To celebrate the new Star Wars movie released in December, freshman Zoe Dieguez wore a Star Wars themed sweater all day during school. "I actually liked every part of the movie. I got my sweater at Kohls," said Dieguez.



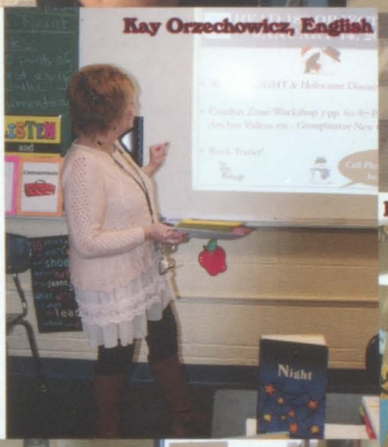
While in Marilyn Brunk's Intro to Computer Science Class, freshman Danny Smith plays the frogger game the class made. "I really like this class because it gives me the basic skills I need to possibly make an app one day," said Smith.





Angelica Nava, 11

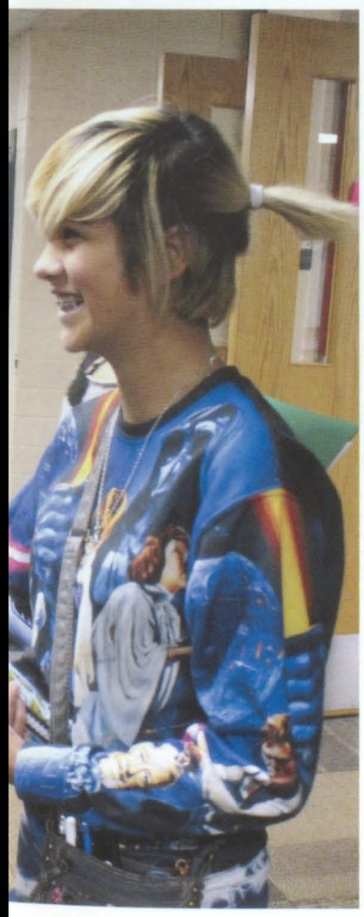
Jeremy Baldauf, 11



Kay Orzechowicz, English

Nikki Hamm, 12

Allison Biancardi, 10 & Sierra Slavin, 10



Dress to Impress

"I like to dress nice at school because I like to look professional. Sometimes I wake up thinking I just want to look nice that day. Other times I dress nice because I have a big test that day and it makes me feel more confident if I'm dressed up. I shop everywhere because you never know where you can find nice clothes for decent prices."

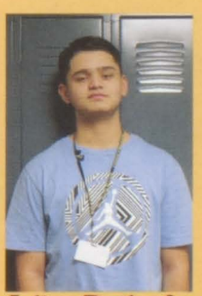
Corey Josephson, 12

"I buy a lot of different shoes. I like things that are comfy and things that I think no one else has in their closets. I switch up my shoes a lot too. I have boots, flats, Jordans, and basically everything in between. My all time favorite pair is my camo vans because they're cute and comfortable. Plus they help people out all around the world."

Kaelyn Price, 11

"I wear what makes me feel comfortable and what I like. I shop a lot, mainly at American Eagle, Pink, and Hollister. Being dressed up and looking nice definitely makes me feel better about myself and more confident when I walk down the hallway. My friends always compliment my clothes and ask where I shop to help them get outfit ideas."

Jessica Terzarial, 9



"I wear whatever pleases me according to my style. I really like to shop at stores like Footlocker, Champs, Pacsun, and Finish Line. My favorite brands include Jordans and Nikes because I like the way they look and how they fit. Sometimes I'll look at other people's shoes and think they're really cool, but I'll always think mine are better."

Julian Rutherford, 10

Raise Your Voice

Being a member of any of the choir classes comes with the responsibilities of attending events, concerts, and putting in great effort everyday. Griffith High School offers a variety of different choir classes such as concert choir 1 and 2, chorale, symphonic choir, choralettes, and choralaires. Around the month of May, choir teacher Kristin Anderson starts to hold auditions for the next school year. Each student must perform one song of their choice.

Throughout the course of the year, choir members practice and prepare for their concerts; fall, winter, and spring. Members also do other activities as well. Chorale always goes caroling around Christmas time. They go and sing to all the elementary schools in Griffith and then sing down the high school halls afterwards. "I love going caroling, especially in the elementary schools. The way the little kids stare at all of us singing is priceless," said senior Gage Corona.

Some choir members also sing the National Anthem at home basketball games. They stand in a circle to the side of the court and Kristin Anderson stands in front of them guiding them. They also sing at in-school assemblies such as the wheelchair basketball game and pep rallies. "It's always nice to sing outside the choir room, it gives us members a chance to show off our voices and our skills," said senior Elana Jones.

Members of chorale sold raffle tickets for two field trips they wanted to go on. The raffle tickets were for a drawing to win prizes. First place was a $100 gift card to Buffalo Wild Wings, second place was a $50 gift card to AMC, and third place was a $25 gift card to Bridges' Scoreboard. "Selling these raffle tickets was totally worth it because we got to go to the Blue Man group show and this Medieval Times show. It was really awesome," said senior Nathan Vuckovich.

"Concert choir is my favorite, I love being able to perform and let people hear my voice. We do a lot to prepare for these annual concerts. We work very hard and try to enjoy it at the same time," said junior Zachary Keil.

"Advanced women's choir is probably my favorite kind of choir because it's just all girls, our voices combined as we sing together makes a beautiful sound," said sophomore Delia Booker.

Why Did You Join?

"I joined choir because I've been in it since I was in elementary school. My friends are in choir as well. We always have a great time everyday in class. Another reason why I joined choir is because I want to improve my voice. Every year I try to improve my voice more from the last year. Ms. Anderson does a fantastic job at helping my voice to get better."

Mark Whitlock, 10

"Singing is something I love to do. I started singing when I was a little girl, but not like professionally. I just sing around the house, in the shower, and of course in choir, that's why I joined. I think I'm pretty good at it. Ms. Anderson does a great job teaching me new techniques and ways to improve my voice. I really enjoy going to choir everyday, I always have a great time."

Kaily Gonzalez , 12

"I joined choir because singing is my passion. I love to sing. I sing in the shower, in the car, and even in the hallways. Also, choir gives me the chance to do something I actually like to do during and after school, since I don't do sports. During class, we sing old, new, and even different language songs. It's pretty interesting. Choir is the perfect class for me."

Britney Brady, 10

At their winter concert, the choir follows the direction of Ms. Anderson and sings to the crowd. "It was really exciting. I liked how we were able to sing beside a lot of the other upperclassmen," said freshman Daanah Suboh.

Preparing to sing at the Homecoming pep rally, junior Sylvie Dowd talks with her fellow chorale members. "I absolutely love to sing so I take chorale pretty seriously. I work and sing my best to make Ms. Anderson proud," said Dowd.

With Christmas spirit, senior Andrew Bowman walks through the halls singing carols. "My favorite part was going to the elementary schools and seeing all of my old teachers. A lot of the kids were really excited to see us," said Bowman.

Advanced Women's Choir

Row 1: Melanie Vera, Deleah Walker, Lily Desler, Kristin Anderson
Row 2: Leslie Leon, Gabby Hamm, Riley Hendron, Nina Mendoza, Kaylyn Perez
Row 3: Jenny Chur, Mary Lesko, Delia Booker, Ali Schoon, Courtney Smith, Alex Longoria

Chorale

Row 1: Kristin Anderson, Leandra Wimmer, Laura Reid, Marissa Perez, Diane Torres, Marissa Mendoza
Row 2: Jacob Adams, Sylvie Dowd, Rachel Kruhaj, Elana Jones
Row 3: Nathan Vuckovich, Josh Zoran, Andrew Bowman, Gage Corona, Daniel Walker, Greg Copp

Concert Choir

Row 1: Kirsten Edwards, Kaily Gonzalez, Jada Smith, Emily Marsh, Lena Mansour, Jazmyne Alvarez, Vanessa Pena, Kristin Anderson
Row 2: Nina Stosic, Daanah Suboh, Paige Zoran, Micaela Weeks, Mackenzie Olsen, Tianna Harris, Diamond Arthur, Karissa Baker, Rabekka Rex
Row 3: Zachary Keil, Danny Smith, Jesse Smollet, John Lawson, Jeremy Paganelli, Zackary Valiquet, Tyler Josephson, Paige Brawski

Symphonic Choir

Row 1: Emily Pawlicki, Britney Brady, Amari Harris, Mikaela Dragus, Mercedes SanMiguel, Kristin Anderson
Row 2: Cassandra Barnaby, Kylie Maloney, Erica Ward, Leah Vuckovich, Veronica Matthews, Victoria Metcalf
Row 3: Cameron Bobos, Leanna Early, Storm Fleming, Hollie Witvoet, Skylar Davenport, Shawn Graham, Thomas Perez
Row 4: Jamie Thomas, Jorge Robinson, Jonathan Lanfear, Kevin Novak, Shawn Falstrom, Mark Whitlock, Adrian Rodriguez, Collin Meadows

Beginning Band

Row 1: Angelina Dillon, Donovan Johnson, Xaria Smith, Me' Kiya Munroe, Anthony Williams, Kyle Cleveringa
Row 2: Prince Johnson, Christian Holley, Caitlin Whaley, Abria Clark, Jason Czyz, Schaun Scott, Ahmad Clark, Debbie Korak
Row 3: Madalynn Depozo, LaDurian Hawthorne, Jayla McCoy, Madison Pearson, Alonzo Martinez, Micah Alvarez, Heaven Bowie, Isabella Henley
Row 4: Nolan Brummet, Damian Villalpando, Tre Bubala, Jack Michaels, John Surdyk, Nathan Hernandez, Trinity Denny

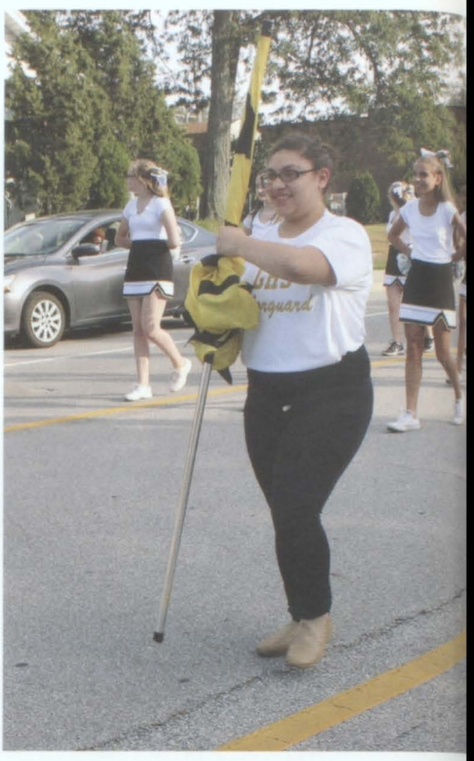
Color Guard

Row 1: Theresa Neal, Kayla Schramm, Samantha Snell, Emily Pawlicki, Nina Mendoza, Leanna Early

Symphonic Band

Row 1: Debbie Korak, Katie Holt, Ekaterina Adkins, Gabrielle Quintana, Zoe Dieguez, Brianna Quintana, Madeline Kruse
Row 2: Jesus Pantoja, Molly Mills, Julia Carrillo, Liana Boulles, Samantha Rettie, Kaelynn Church, Ryan Dudlicek, Charles Murphy
Row 3: John Vega, Xavier Sopher, Exavior Zeiler, Alexia Smith, Sylvie Dowd, Dejauvie Ward-Hickman, Ashley Ramirez, Andrew Shelton, Alyssa Skertich
Row 4: Iy-Lyse McGee, Daniel Welch, Scott Nolan, Luke Haney, Samantha Snell, Dara Meece, Jason Munsey, Emily Gonzales, Antonia Williams

Beside her fellow color guard members at the Homecoming parade, sophomore Nina Mendoza smiles for the crowd. "I love Color Guard. We have a great group of girls in the group, and we have a ton of inside jokes and traditions," said Mendoza.



Taking a break from performing, freshman Molly Mills sits with juniors Katie Holt and Iy-Lyse McGee and tells some jokes. "I love being able to play my trombone with an accepting group of people. It's really relaxing," said Mills.

After their performance, junior Alvineice Thomas and sophomore Dejauviae Ward-Hickman joke around. "Band isn't all about blowing horns and playing music. It's about doing something you love and working hard," said Thomas.

Forward, March!

It took a lot of grueling practice and determination to be a member of the band or color guard. Hours and hours of physical work and pep talk can and will leave others breathless. Debbie Korak led both of her bands, beginning and symphonic, marching across fields to play their hearts out and wow the crowds.

Theresa Neal, FACS, alongside her dedicated crew of five performers, stunned the people with their intricate flag movements and performances. Color guard and the bands worked side by side to excite both the crowd and the team. They brought the Panther spirit to any event. The bands were with their school every step of the way, from football games all the way to the Wheelchair Basketball game on March 14, 2016.

"There are pros and cons to being in Symphonic band. You're in there based on the talent you have, but there's a lot of repeating and there's a small chance that you'll be well known," said junior Emily Gonzales. Symphonic band performed a variety of concerts and bellowed out many famous tunes, such as "Stars and Stripes" and "The Phantom of the Opera".

Beside them was beginning band, which is for lower levels, or those that are just starting out.

"Beginning band is what got me into band. I got bumped up not too long ago, but beginning band is what started it. We worked on concert music and practiced on our skills. Although not much got done, it still helped me," said freshman Christian Holley.

Alongside the musical notes and marching was the dedicated group of girls who were the color guard. Led by Neal, the flag-carrying ladies performed in the Fourth of July parade and at football games, wowing crowds with their movements.

"Color guard is an amazing group and there's so many unique and beautiful people in it. We all bond and have a great time. However, waking up in the summer for band camp and having noodle arms after getting hit with a flag can get a little old," said junior Kayla Schramm.

The group of talented girls learned to throw their flags and moves, and then applied music and marching to them. Together, the groups kept the Panther spirit alive during games and events with their musical and physical skills. The numbers of students involved in band will only continue to grow.

The Struggle

Andrew Shelton, 11

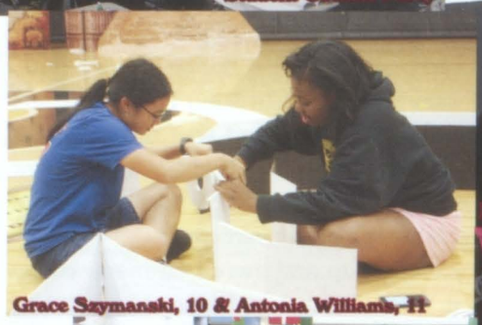
"The most challenging part of being in band is the competition between your peers. You have to try and prove yourself to everyone and be the best in what you do. You want to be known and recognized for your talent against everyone else. Learning new songs can be a little bit of a challenge, but it gets easier with time and practice. Practice makes perfect."

Emily Pawlicki, 11

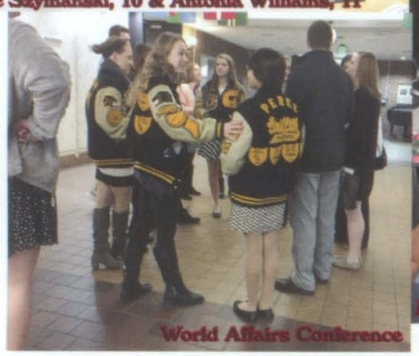
"This is my first year of Colorguard, and I do love it. We enjoy being with each other and telling jokes. I'm shorter than most, so the hardest part of being in the group is learning and perfecting new techniques. It can take days or weeks to get a move right, and it all depends on the person. You really just have to keep trying and try your best not to hit yourself."

Student Council Party

Hannah Ramirez, 10

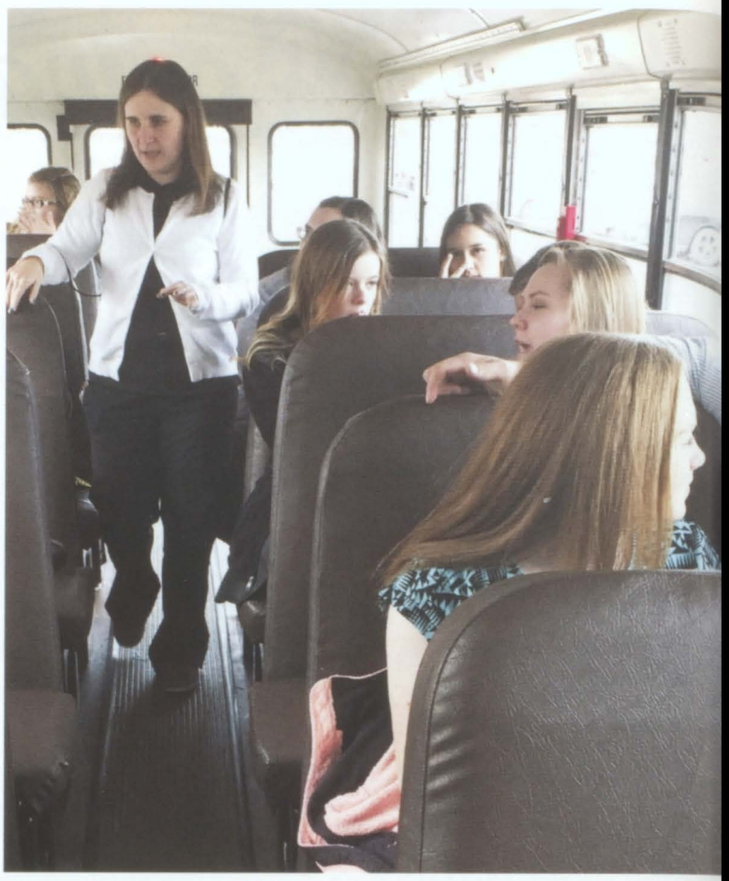


Grace Szymanski, 10 & Antonia Williams, 11



World Affairs Conference

Merry Orlando, 10



Arriving on the bus after the end of the World Affairs Conference, junior Dana Jelenski begins to talk to her friends. "It was really interesting learning about such a common issue and hearing from some of the best doctors out there," said Jelenski.

On the Iron Oaks field trip, students lift log blocks, one at a time, in order to practice the ability to work with others. "It was nice to be outside during a school day and the activities our group did were really unique," said senior Rachel Adams.

Trips Galore

"I loved going to Iron Oaks Farm, because it reminded me of my middle school field trip where I got hit with a log. Mrs. Pramuk helped me believe that I wasn't going to get hit again, which persuaded me to go."

Victoria Holtzer, 12

"It was exciting to go to Purdue Calumet for the World Affairs Conference. I was nervous at the beginning because I would have to sit with other people from different schools. I learned a lot of new things about diseases."

Taylor Kazmer, 12

"Iron Oaks Farm helped me get create closer relationships with the group that I was in. We worked on teamwork activities with our group leader Mrs. Berzy. I look forward to going next year when I'm an upperclassmen."

Maddie Nolan, 9

Fundraising Committee

Student Council consisted of students from all four grades. The main purpose was to plan school activities, fundraise, and host charity events. Seniors Victoria Holtzer (historian) and Tommy Biancardi (president) are student council officers along with juniors Bella Maglish (secretary), Bridget Beck (vice president), and Abbey Dobosz (treasurer). This club was sponsored by Jenna Berzy, social studies teacher.

Student Council hosts many activities for students to participate in throughout the school year. One of the activities include organizing Homecoming week and the Homecoming dance. During their meetings, the members decided on the theme, decorations, and spirit week days.

The annual talent show sponsored by student council was held in the spring. The profits made from this event were used as funds for next year's Homecoming decorations and food.

To help spread awareness for breast cancer awareness month (October), the club members made pink ribbons that were sold for $1 to students around the school. The club reached their goal of selling 500 ribbons which allowed both the GHS principal and GMS principal to be drenched with pink slime.

Another activity hosted by Student Council was the annual food drive. All classes were able to bring in food or household items over the time span of three weeks to help charities and give back to the community. The highest number of items brought in was Melissa Diekelmann's special needs class who received a pizza party. Second place went to Kristina Collard's newspaper class who received a donut party. Third place went to Jenna Berzy's world history class and they received a chip party.

Being part of the student council came with many advantages. The club got a chance to take many field trips this year. Iron Oaks Farm was used as a team building exercise for the whole club. Juniors and seniors got to go back for an exclusive trip to a high ropes course to help build strong bonds. Some seniors and juniors went on a trip to Purdue Calumet for an epidemic talk, as well.

Student Council also partnered with Heartland Blood Center for the annual blood drive held on January 25th. Participants received a $5 Dunkin Donuts gift card.

"I enjoyed being able to do this for the teachers because they do a lot for us," said freshman Mikey Worosz. Worosz and freshman Jonathon Vasilak prepared the ribbon for the end of the semester teacher presents during the student council party.

While setting up for Griffith's annual homecoming, freshman Grace Opinker, hangs construction paper high up on the wall. "It was exciting to be apart of helping decorate the gym. I also enjoyed seeing the outcome at the dance," said Opinker.

Student Council

Row 1: Bella Maglish, Tommy Biancardi, Bridget Beck, Abbey Dobosz
Row 2: Sabrina Garcia, Keith Hernandez, Lauren Vieyra, Mariah Fowler, Ali Schoon, Hannah Ramirez, Erica Ward, Daniella Ayala, Alex Colomes, Rachel Adams, Lauren Kovacic, Tiffany Novak
Row 3: Grace Opinker, Alexis Gardner, Jacob Adams, Dana Jelenski, Lily Maravilla, Antonia Williams, Storm Fleming, Thomas Perez, Jonathon Vasilak, Cameron Bobos, Laura Reid, Matthew McInerney, Grace Szymanski, Marissa Perez
Row 4: Lilyana Salazar, Sam Stassin, Zach Thomas, Josh Miller, Dara Meece, Taylor Kazmer, Jacob Diamond, Benjamin Jacobs, Kersten Collins, Michelle Beck, Julianne Long

Take Charge

GHS class councils were decided at the end of each school year by students' votes. If running for an officer position, some campaigning may have occurred during the week of voting if students chose to do so. In order to be an officer or representative, a form was required with signatures from fifty classmates of their grade and four teacher signatures.

Freshmen sponsors are Shannon Scheidel and Sara Novak. The freshmen got their first year of float building and Homecoming parade walking.

The sophomores took on a bigger responsibility in class council because they were in charge of planning Turnabout and it was their first big event they got to plan. Sophomore sponsors, Jenna Berzy and Luann Pramuk, helped guide them throughout the year. Planning included the officers picking the color of the balloons, the theme and the colors, and the photo background. The sophomore class council also got to choose the design of the ticket.

The junior class council was in charge of prom planning. This planning required picking the theme, colors, and the picture background. The junior class was also in charge of picking decorations, balloons, and centerpieces to go along with the theme. Dinner choices were decided during that time as well. Planning began in early February with their class sponsors, Kristina Collard and Kay Ozrechowicz.

The senior class council had the opportunity to plan their graduation with the help of their sponsors, Jenna Candiano and Michelle Udchitz. Seniors decided the class song, a class quote, and a class flower. Seniors also put together their own Homecoming t-shirts for the day of the Homecoming game, so they were different from the rest of the school.

The opportunity to be in class council was open to students in all grade levels. Spots were limited each year, so many students filled out their forms fast. Each council took on one significant event that occurred throughout school year. This ensured that each and every student had the chance to incorporate their opinions. Class council is a solely student centered organization at Griffith High School, which allows creativity to flow freely and meet other students in their grade levels.

In preparation for prom, junior class council starts to meet to decide on themes and colors. "Planning turnabout was much easier than planning prom, but I'm excited to plan for it since I've never been before," said junior Gabby Hamm.

In order for court to be decided, the sophomores vote their classmates. Sophomore Haley Gearhart checks off names of boys she would like to see on court. "I am excited to have the opportunity to vote for the first time," said Gearhart.

Representing their class, sophomores Sam Stassin, Cameron Bobos, Thomas Perez, and Ben Jacobs walk in the Homecoming parade. "Float building and eating pizza at Erica's (Ward, 10) was my favorite part of the week," said Stassin.

Nikki Hamm, 12 & Luann Pramuk

Junior Class Float Building

Senior Class Council

De Angelo Steward, 9

Jasmine Williamson, 9 & Jenna Brown, 9

To be in Office

"Being vice president of the freshman class council helps me to be more involved in my class and school. It gives me the opportunity to make our school a better place to be. My experience working with the other people in class council for float building was a success and I would like to work with them more often in the future. I am looking forward to the upcoming years of being in class council and learning more about what class council is about. I cant wait to be involved with new students and the sponsors for my remaining years in class council. I hope that this leadership role will prepare me for upcoming things in the future. Being involved is my favorite part of school. I look up to the other officers that are upperclassmen so I can hopefully follow in their footsteps for the next three years of my high school career to make us successful. This is something I'm so happy I'm able to be apart of for my high school years."

Stephanie Lester, 9

"Being the secretary for our sophomore class comes with a lot of responsibility, however it's really fun and rewarding. We have regular meetings and my job is to write down everything we talk about so nothing is forgotten or left out. Being an officer can be very stressful and difficult to do sometimes, but it's definitely worth it. It's a good feeling knowing the responsibility you have and that you're assisting in leading your peers in not just class meetings, but other things such as dances and different organized projects we do. Along with the responsibility and organization, comes a lot of enjoyment. All the things we do for class council are very enjoyable because it's not just work, but also hanging out with peers and making decisions that benefit you and your class. It's a great thing to be apart of and I can't wait to continue on with my classmates."

Alexis Gardner, 10

Freshmen Class Council

Row 1: DaYjah Robinson, Nina Cima de Villa, Haley Greep, Ashley Trice, Lauren Atkinson
Row 2: Christina Li, Grace Opinker, Brooke Rassel, Julianne Long
Row 3: Stephanie Lester, Dynahstee Moore, Jaedynn Williamson, Jessica Terzarial, Macie Miller

Sophomore Class Council

Row 1: Erica Ward, Alexis Gardner, Hannah Ramirez, Thomas Perez
Row 2: Ali Schoon, Rebecca Flores, Leslie Leon, Tatum Josephson, Kaylyn Perez, Mikaela Dragus, Merry Galindo, Deleah Walker
Row 3: Sam Stassin, Ben Jacobs, Jacob Diamond, Shawn Falstrom, Skylar Davenport, Storm Fleming, Cameron Bobos, Laura Reid

Junior Class Council

Row 1: Bella Maglish, Dana Jelenski, Bridget Beck, Michelle Beck
Row 2: Keith Hernandez, Matt McInerney, Lilyana Salazar, Abbey Dobosz, Gabby Hamm
Row 3: Dara Meece, Corynn Kealey, Rachel Kruhaj, Rachel Deck

Senior Class Council

Row 1: Victoria Holtzer, Daniel Walker, Greg Copp, Adrian Lopez
Row 2: Alex Leon, Arlynne Corona, Jazmin Lopez, Riley Hendron, Nikki Hamm, Tiffany Novak, Rachel Adams, Camryn Linders, Morgan Taylor, Marissa Perez, Leandra Wimmer
Row 3: Kersten Collins, Jacob Adams, Lily Maravilla, Jillian Beaupain, Lauren Vieyra, Mariah Fowler, Daniella Ayala, Alex Colomes, Lauren Kovacic, Sabrina Garcia
Row 4: Jordan Galindo, Collin Sutton, Anthony Quintero, Jared Lipski, Zach Thomas, Josh Zoran, Tommy Biancardi, Brian Brzycki, Taylor Kazmer

Get With It

There were many unique clubs at Griffith High School. From the competitions with the Robotics team, all the way to the potlucks with International Club, the variety of clubs and their activities appeal to each student's preferences.

International Club, sponsored by Lorrainne Hageman and Jenna Candiano, alongside Theresa Neal and Margaret Rivera, is a club dedicated to learning about new and foreign cultures. Potlucks, eat-in's, Coffee and Canvas nights, and trips to foreign countries are some of the most well known events that International Club has hosted.

"International Club brings together a bunch of cultures from all over the world and we get the chance to learn about them. The leaders are very helpful and organized. The food has been delicious," said sophomore Collin Meadows.

On the other hand, the school had Robotics Club, where engineer and parent, Gracia Dudlicek and her team of students created and programmed Lego robots to perform tasks and challenges. Over the few years that this club had been in operation, Gracia and her team have gone to several competitions and successfully showed off their skills and hard work. This year, the students toured at the Griffith Senior Center and showed off their hard work. They also brought home the state title for their robot and its performance.

Another club that required hard work and skill was the Griffith High School Chess Club. The club is sponsored by Nick Zivanovic. The club focused on the techniques and strategies to use during chess. The club is small and was not as well known as some of the other clubs, but it was not a force to be reckoned with. The students relied on one another to learn new ways to overcome obstacles in-game and how to prepare for matches. Every Tuesday and Thursday, a small group of students gathered around and played rounds of chess and board games.

Officer Peter Ghrist continued on with the Griffith High School Paranormal Society this past year. Students went to various locations and hunted for ghosts with a group of other students using special equipment that picked up paranormal forces. They searched areas such as Griffith High School and an old prison in Crown Point.

Clubs to Know

"International Club is a good way to learn about new places all over the world and their cultures. I joined the club because it seemed like really nice group of people, and I had heard a lot of good things about it. This club really fits me because I enjoy learning, especially about cultures and their foods."

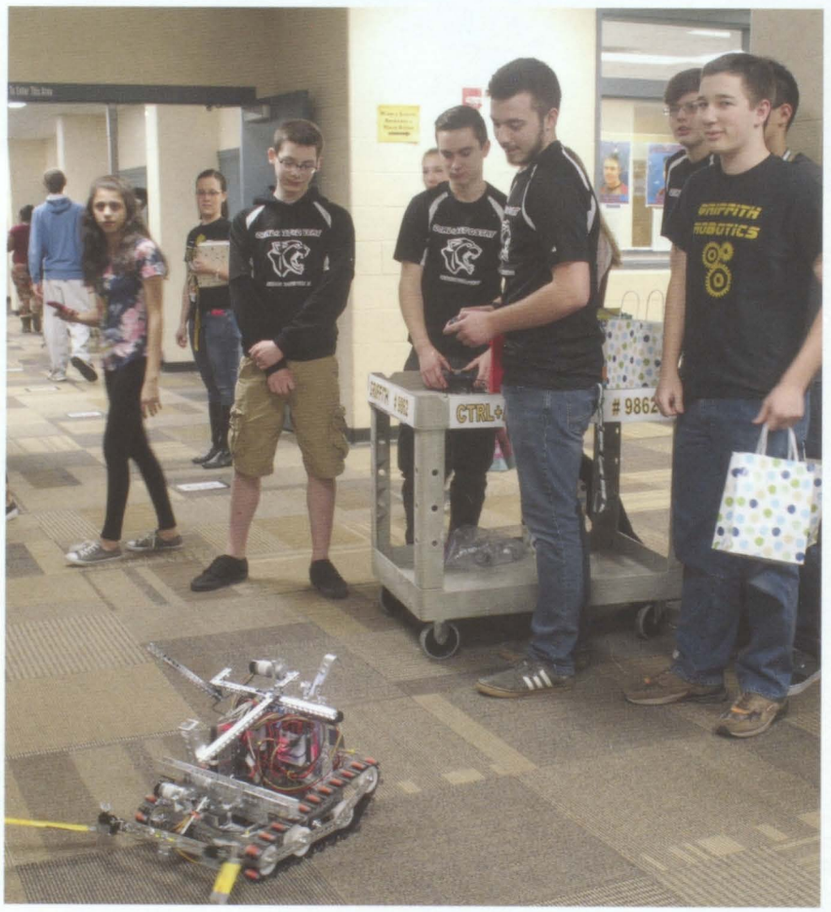
Kayla Schramm, 11

"Miss Candiano and I started Paranormal society thinking we'd have a handful of students signed-up, but over a hundred did. It continues to be the largest and most popular club at Griffith High School. Each investigation is a new learning experience for our club and its members, and I'm proud of how well it's doing."

Officer Peter Ghrist, Sponsor

"My favorite club is the Robotics club we have here. I like math, science and physics, and this club creates a fun combination of those interests. Our club also gives us the ability to create and program robots to do certain tasks. It gives us a challenge and gives us the chance to work together as a team."

Gabe Dudlicek, 10



Demonstrating their robot after their state send off, junior Adam Kent shows off some tricks to the crowd. "It was really awesome for everyone to send us off before our last competition. All the hard work did pay off," said Kent.

While at an investigation for Paranormal Society, juniors Erin Escorza, Alexis Gonzalez, and Megan Madrigal laugh away the spookiness of the trip. "I joined because I'm curious about the supernatural," said junior Alexis Gonzalez.

Getting ready to show the school the state winning robot, junior Cristian Haddock attaches its arms to the rim of the hoop. "It was exciting, but at the same time very scary because the robot looked like it was going to fall," said Haddock.

International Club

Row 1: Alexis Gardner, Hailey Moore, Jessica Lopez, Gabrielle Quintana, Megan Wilson, Makiyah Perry-Bell, Ashley Trice, Haley Greep, Tatum Josephson, Merry Galindo, Deleah Walker, Marissa Perez, Reta Haddad
Row 2: Ly-Lyse McGee, Molly Mills, Kathryn Holt, Alyssa Skertich, Christine Morikis, Angelica Nava, Anthony Caffarella, Jacob Rothchild, Karol Ames, Renee Adams, Mikaela Dragus, Taylor Grady, Yamia Smith, Megan Miller, Aary Cano, Haley Gearhart
Row 3: Alex Longoria, Jazmin Lopez, Marixa Acevedo, Zach Thomas, Adrian Lopez, Matt McInerney, Marrissa Walter, Bridget Beck, Macie Miller, Jenny Gong, Armani Betts, Lauren Kovacic, Lilyana Salazar, Michelle Beck, Abbey Dobosz, Julia Carrillo
Row 4: Sylvie Dowd, Storm Fleming, Delia Booker, Riley Hendron, Emily Gonzales, Alexis Johnson, Thomas Perez, Keith Hernandez, Kayla Schramm, Jessica Diaz, Laura Reid, Leanna Early, Ali Schoon, Jessica Terzarial, Victoria Metcalf, Lindsay Krajnik
Row 5: Adam Kent, Chyna Gerloff-Rex, Gabe Dudlicek, Luke Reid, Mark Whitlock, Corynn Kealey, Natalie Halley, Noah Mitcheltree, Sean Bailey, Rachel Kruhaj, Dana Jelenski, Alexis Gonzalez, Skylar Davenport, Erica Ward, Daniel Walker, Kelsy Lopez
Row 6: Jake Dye, Zac Hilgeman, Cornell Hampton, Hunter Conaghan, Trevor Sheffield, Nathan Vuckovich, Ben Jacobs, Sam Stassin, Daniel Almaraz, Cristian Haddock, Matthew Thomas, Collin Meadows, Zack Keil, Dara Meece, Shawn Falstrom, Stephen Kunka, Bella Maglish, Megan Madrigal, Josh Miller

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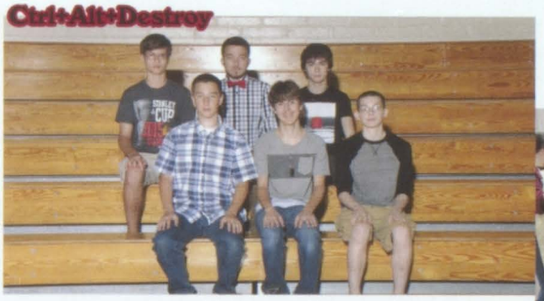


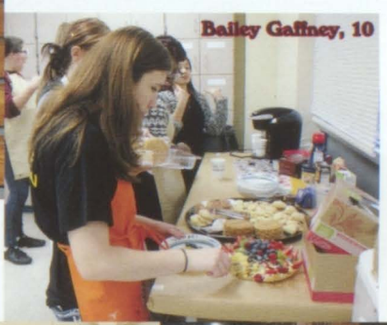
Row 1: Luke Reid, Stephen Kunka, Nathan Klingensmith
Row 2: Samuel Stassin, Adam Kent, Gabe Dudlicek

Chess Club

Row 1: Zachary Keil, Jessica Diaz, Molly Mills, Jared Lisle

Paranormal Society

Row 1: Karol Ames, Alexis Ingle, Marissa Mendoza, Camryn Linders, Leandra Wimmer, Sabrina Garcia, Jason Munsey, Delaina Schrock, Peter Ghrist
Row 2: Matt McInerney, Bridget Beck, Rachel Deck, Gabriella Hamm, Diane Torres, Morgan Taylor, Lauren Kovacic, Teliya Loudenber, Tiffany Novak, Lilyana Salazar, Michelle Beck
Row 3: Chyna Gerloff-Rex, Chase Janowski, Leyah Hodge, Kayla Schramm, Keith Hernandez, Mariah Fowler, Christine Morikis, Leanna Early, Amber Grubish, Jessica Diaz
Row 4: Megan Madrigal, Gage Corona, Adrian Lopez, Logan Perry, Natalie Halley, Noah Mitcheltree, Taylor Kazmer, Jillian Beaupain, Lily Maravilla, Rachel Adams, Victoria Holtzer
Row 5: Nathan Vuckovich, Jared Lipski, Zac Hilgeman, Patrick Moseley, Trevor Sheffield, Anthony Quintero, Josh Zoran, Hunter Conaghan, Tommy Biancardi, Bella Maglish

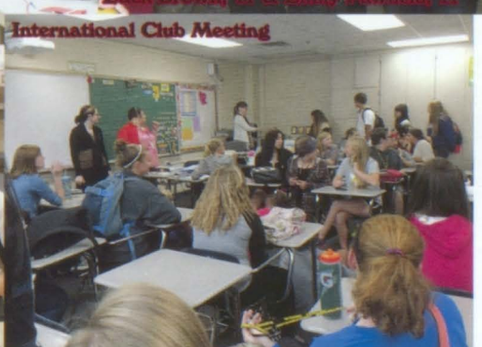


Bailey Gaffney, 10

Robotics competition

Zack Brown, 11 & Emily Pawfield, 11

Chess Club



International Club Meeting

For The Kids

FCCLA stands for Family, Career, Community, Leaders of America. The club was sponsored by Shannon Scheidel, but Theresa Neal began to take over FCCLA this year for Scheidel. Meetings were held in her classroom to plan various activities and field trips for the school year. FCCLA is a group that gives back to the community by volunteering and raising money for multiple organizations such as March of Dimes and Riley's Children Hospital. In September, the members of FCCLA walked their pets in the homecoming parade for the Humane Society.

In October, club members sold paper pumpkins to raise money for the March of Dimes foundation. The March of Dimes foundation's mission is to improve the overall health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. All FCCLA members were supposed to sell at least ten paper pumpkins for a $1 each. Once the fundraiser ended, FCCLA raised over $250 to give to the March of Dimes organization.

This year, they decided to raise funds for Riley's Children Hospital. The club also hosted their first annual dance fundraiser on November 9th called "Dancing with the Panthers." FCCLA began planning the event last fall. The club held their event in the field house, to make it easy for all Griffith residents to attend. The field house was decorated with streamers, balloons, and signs. The first half of the gym was the dance area, where members sold cookies, cake, and other baked goods. The other half of the field house was designated for games. Members of FCCLA sold shirts for fifteen dollars during the week of the event and on the day of the event itself. Riley's kids were invited to attend the fundraiser and to speak about their experiences at the hospital. After the speakers talked about their stories, FCCLA officers counted the funds raised over the course of the night. After all the proceeds from donations, shirts, baked goods, and tickets were counted, FCCLA officers revealed the total amount raised. FCCLA officers held up a big sign that revealed FCCLA raised $5,169 dollars. "I was a chairman for the Riley's event and I had a blast organizing the dance," said senior Tiffany Novak.

During second semester, FCCLA made plans to attend a soup kitchen in Chicago, to volunteer at the humane society, and to clean up the court yard.

Row 1: Lauren Kovacic, Marissa Perez, Riley Hendron, Tiffany Novak, Tommy Biancardi
Row 2: Alex Leon, Teliya Loudenber, Lilyana Salazar, Marissa Mendoza, Jessica Lopez, Alexis Gardner, Anabel Castellanos, Tyra Gonzalez
Row 3: Nikki Hamm, Gabby Hamm, Taylor Grady, Chyna Gerloff-Rex, Corynn Kealy, Jenny Gong, Samantha Rettie, Sabrina Garcia, Abbey Dobosz, Rachel Adams, Taporia Brown
Row 4: Laura Reid, Ali Schoon, Alyssa Skertich, Erica Ward, Trinity Austin, Christine Morikis, Leslie Leon, Leah Vuckovich, Ashley Vera, Alexis Gonzalez, Angel Meyer, Morgan Taylor, Alex Longoria
Row 5: Daniel Walker, Lily Maravilla, Jillian Beaupain, Sylvie Dowd, Kelsy Lopez, Jonathon Vasilak, Storm Fleming, Thomas Perez, Matthew McInerney, Jacob Damski, Charlie Flores, Cameron Bobos, Keith Hernandez, Maddie Nolan, Jazmin Lopez
Row 6: Hunter Conaghan, Michael Torres, Ben Jacobs, Bella Maglish, Taylor Kazmer, Zachary Keil, Dara Meece, Luke Reid, Kacie Kruhaj, Dana Jelenski, Michael Worosz, Shawn Falstrom, Zac Hilgeman, Jaymie Kennedy

In preparation for the "Dancing With the Panthers," sophomore Mary Lesko sets up a game for the kids. "Even though it took hours to set up, seeing all the kids happy and running around there made it all worth it," said Lesko.

During the annual homecoming parade, FCCLA continues on the tradition of walking dogs down Broad Street. "It was my last homecoming parade that I was in, so I made sure to be in it," said senior Taylor Kazmer.

Helping Others

"I joined FCCLA to help others. My favorite event was the "Dancing With The Panthers" for Riley's Children Hospital. We raised money to donate to the hospital and I was proud to be a part of it. I'm not an officer, but that doesn't matter because I still contribute to the community. I enjoy getting involved in activities. That's why FCCLA is a club that fits me perfectly."

Jonathon Vasilak, 9

"When I was a baby I was a Riley's kid. I wanted to be in a program that makes a difference. Then, in high school, I found FCCLA. It was perfect because, I always wanted to give back. This is my first year in FCCLA. My favorite thing is we get to volunteer. The event that really hit home was Riley's Children's event. It was an excellent cause to help the kids."

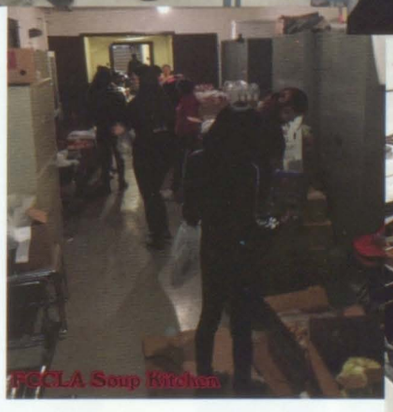
Sammi Rettie, 10

At "Dancing With The Panthers," senior Jaymie Kennedy works on face-painting sixth grader Blake Loudenber. "This is my first year in FCCLA, but I want to make a difference in the community," said Kennedy.

FCCLA Committee Members

FCCLA Meeting

Marissa Mendoza, 12



FCCLA Soup Kitchen

Spicie Dowd, 10

Dancing to the End

The 2015-2016 Pantherette season was filled with new changes, new teams, and a forever bond between the girls.

In April 2015, sixteen girls made the dance team. Early in the summer, the team conditioned two to three times a week, preparing for competition and football season. In June, the team attended UDA camp and were invited to nationals in Disney World. "My favorite part of UDA camp was probably meeting other teams and being able to bond with girls other than our team," said sophomore Kaylyn Perez.

At the end of June, the team learned their pom competition dance. Putting the routine aside, football season came and ended with four games. At the third football game, the team put together a Pantherette alumni night for past Pantherettes. "Even though we got rained on, I enjoyed dancing for people who love Pantherettes just as much as I do," said freshman Brooke Rassel.

After the football season ended, the team had to overcome many hardships when coach Sara Novak took away competition season. However, the team got it back early November; along with a new coach. PE teacher, Rachel Chavez, was offered the job in mid-November to help Novak prepare for the upcoming competitions. With only a month to prepare for the first competition at Marian High School, the team had to put in a lot of extra work and time to pull it all together.

At the second competition, the team left early to perform at the Civic Center for the Griffith-East Chicago basketball game, in front of 4,000 people. Little did they know, their parents (still at the competition for awards) would have to accept their first place trophy. The team was eating at Meatheads when they found out about their win.

At regionals, eight girls took the floor and finished off the competition qualifying for the state competition. "When we first took the floor at state, I got an adrenaline rush but as the dance went on, I calmed myself down and concentrated. Seeing all the people was overwhelming, but I tried to look at the judges. When we went on the floor, it felt like the time went by really fast. The eight of us were amazing though. We had a great bond and you could see it when we danced together. We are all best friends," said junior Renee Mierzwa.

Football vs Basketball

"I enjoy football season more than basketball season because I like to showcase our own choreography. Our moves are unique and they spark the crowd's attention. The crowd gets more into the dances because we do a different dance every time, where as in basketball season, we do the same dance. I love the weather during the season and the game interests me. Football season is my favorite out of the two seasons."

Abbey Dobosz, 11

"I like basketball season more than football season because you are closer to the crowd. You are not limited to do turns, jumps, or ground work. I enjoy how the crowd knows the parts of the song that we dance to. The game is also interesting because something is always going on. Sidelines are a big part of basketball season and is one of the reasons I like basketball season more than football season."

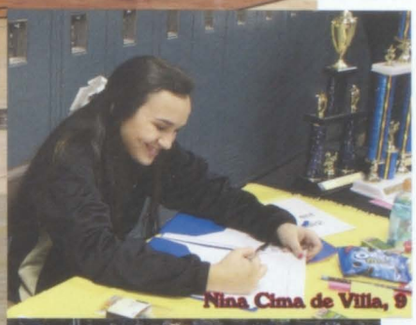
Dynahstee Moore, 9

Host	Pom
Marian	4th
Munster	**1st**
Clark	2nd
Lake Central	3rd
Regionals:	
Lake Central	4th
State:	
New Castle	7th

With very few home games this year, senior Victoria Holtzer dances at the first one. "It was a bittersweet moment dancing on the field for my last-first time. I'll never forget the blood, sweat, and tears that were shed on the turf," said Holtzer.

Lauren Atkinson, 9

Gryffith Pantherettes


Nina Cima de Villa, 9

Julianne Long, 9

Rachel Adams, 12

Football

Row 1: Camryn Linders, Lily Maravilla, Jillian Beaupain, Rachel Adams, Victoria Holtzer, Sabrina Garcia, Leandra Wimmer
Row 2: Sara Novak, Kaylyn Perez, Abbey Dobosz, Leyah Hodge, Renee Mierzwa, Dynahstee Moore, Julianne Long, Lauren Atkinson

Competition

Row 1: Leyah Hodge, Abbey Dobosz, Jillian Beaupain, Renee Mierzwa
Row 2: Brooke Rassel, Julianne Long, Dynahstee Moore, Lauren Atkinson, Nina Cima de Villa

Before leaving for state, the girls generously gave their coaches gifts for their successful season. "For it being my first year, I couldn't have been more pleased with the great group of girls that I was able to work with," said coach Rachel Chavez.

While dancing at the last basketball game, senior Jillian Beaupain enjoys performing for the last time on the GHS floor. "I love dancing for people because of how exhilarating it is. I love the rush I get from dancing on that court," said Beaupain.

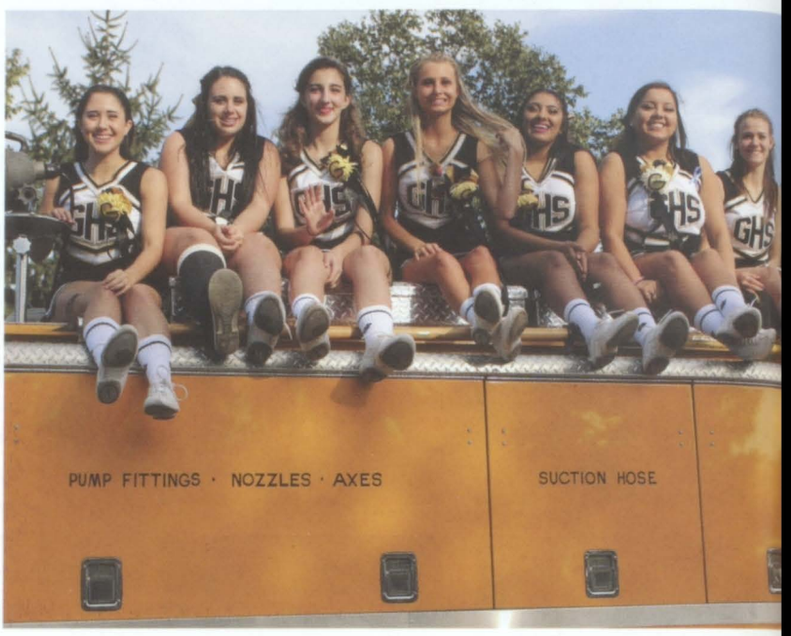
Varsity

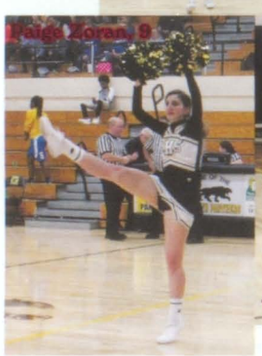
Row 1: Haley Gearheart, Kailey Shepard, Alexis Engle
Row 2: Arlynne Corona, Christine Morikis, Justine Martinez, Lauren Vieyra
Row 3: Kim Teamer, Paige Zoran, Natalie Halley, Alexis Gardner

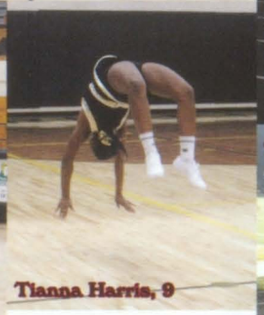
Junior Varsity

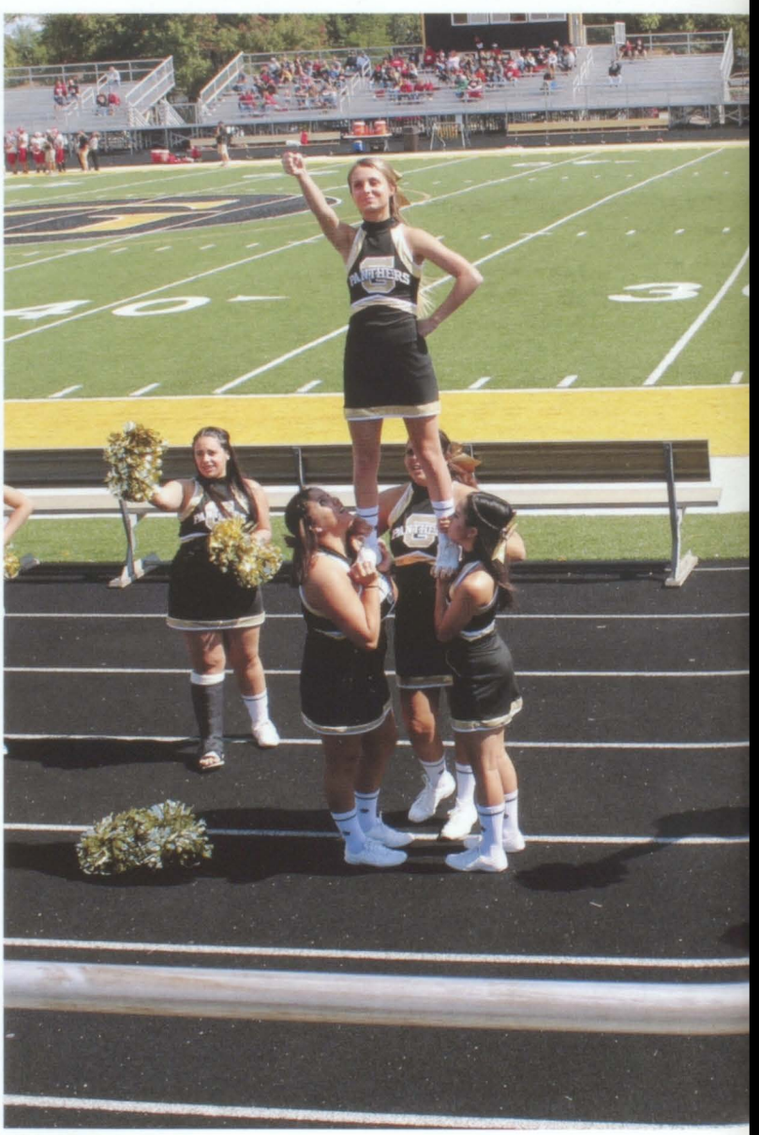
Row 1: Haley Gearheart, Merry Galindo, Victoria Burgess-Giles
Row 2: Kaelynn Church, Deleah Walker, Amelia Michell, Jayla Johnson
Row 3: Tianna Harris, Paige Zoran, Alexia Smith

During the homecoming parade, the cheerleaders wave and catch a ride from a firetruck. "I loved to spend time and bond with my team and I enjoyed being able to sit on the firetruck," said senior Kailey Shepard.









Panther Beat

The 2015-2016 Panther cheerleaders were determined to have a positive season with endless amounts of spirit. Through the team and coaching changes to switching from football to basketball season, the cheerleaders never failed to pump up the crowd. All their energy is exploited, which significantly helps out the players.

The cheerleaders started off their season with two teams. They cheered in the Fourth of July parade in the summer. One team sat on top of a fire truck, while the other did their most popular cheers to the spectators watching the parade. People clapped as they marched by.

Football season rolled around and all the teams cheered and stunted on the track. The student section would join in on their cheers to keep up everyones spirit. The cheerleaders would travel to the away games and never missed a home game. They even held a camp in which little girls got to go on the sideline during the game to take part in the cheerleading experience.

Practices took place a couple times a week so the girls could get a chance to prepare for their next games. They practiced in the fieldhouse with the group and were very productive."We have a new cheer every week and we practice jumps at practices," said freshman Kaelynn Church.

Basketball season came up quickly and by this point there was just one team. They came together to form a team Griffith has never seen before. They changed most of their cheers and added their own style to them. The cheerleaders did short routines for pre-game and halftime performances.

With the basketball team advancing far in the post-season run for the second year in a row, extra practices were mandatory in order to perfect their cheers for the large crowds and spirited student section. "Cheerleading is a great thing to be a part of. Our team is there for each other. This was the best year to be a cheerleader considering our experience," said sophomore Deleah Walker.

The team was mostly freshman that look forward to a bright season next year. "The season got better once we set a goal to reach and it got even better when we reached it," said freshman Alexia Smith. They believe that coming together will help either the football or basketball team perform at their fullest potential.

The girls work to get the student section fans up and cheering to motivate the boys football team. "Football season is my favorite time to cheer because we bond the most during this season," said sophomore Haley Gearhart.

As the Griffith cheerleaders do a pregame cheer, they put all their spirit on the court for the big game. "My favorite thing about cheer is being able to be with my team and keep the sudent section hyped up," said freshman Victoria Burgess-Giles.

One Team, One Dream

Expectations were high in hopes to advance past sectionals for this year's team because of the team's tremendous success in the previous season. In order to have a successful season, the team knew they were going to have to put in a lot of hard work, time, and dedication. This year the team only suffered three loses, which were against East Chicago Central, Munster, and Bowman Academy. As a team, the boys took home the win for the Highland Winter Tournament where they played Hammond, Morton, Munster, and Hobart. "We all had a good season. My favorite game was when we played against East Chicago Central. We gave it our all and the crowd was amazing," said senior Anthony Quintero.

Nine seniors (Anthony Murphy, Tremell Murphy, Martin Schiele, Kelston Haden, Isaiah Martinez, Anthony Quintero, Greg Teamer, Greylon Teamer, and Marcus Marsenic) played their final high school season this year. Their senior night was held on February 26, 2016, a home game against Gary Roosevelt.

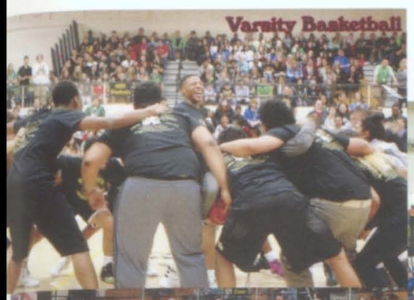
The season was heading in a positive direction and fans and family felt a sense of déjà vu as the boys dominated the post season yet again. But, all the excitement turned to fear on Saturday, March 19th. Forty-five minutes into the drive to Lafayette, Indiana for the semi-state game, the team suffered a tragic bus flip. Fortunately, no players were lost but a few had minor injuries. For more in-depth information about this event, please go to the Community page located on 134-135.

Due to this accident, the semi-state game was postponed until Wednesday, March 23rd. The score was close the entire game. The teams' season ended there, losing to Marion 58-60. "Being able to participate in the semi-state game was an amazing feeling, despite what had happen to us previously. We have another opportunity to come back next year. We just have to keep up the same intensity and determination and the state trophy will be ours," said junior CJ Hampton.

Two boys made the all conference team: Tremell Murphy and Anthony Murphy. Tremell also made the Indiana All-Star team. Coach Gary Hayes was also named Coach of the Year by the Northwest Indiana Times. In addition, senior Martin Schiele was awarded an Honorable Mention by the Northwest Indiana Times.

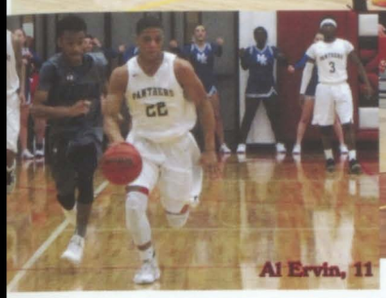
Final Record: 22-4

Opponent:	Score:
Hammond Clark	**54-41**
21st Century Charter	**81-65**
Hammond Morton	**61-42**
Lighthouse CPA	**83-34**
Highland	**69-30**
Gary West Side	**71-38**
Hobart	**66-38**
Whiting	**70-39**
Lowell	**61-57**
Crown Point	**54-51**
Hammond Gavit	**72-42**
E.C. Central	64-67
Andrean	**66-51**
Munster	47-48
Hammond High	**61-40**
Calumet	**76-40**
Bishop Noll	**63-47**
Kankakee Valley	**62-27**
Bowman Academy	57-64
Gary Roosevelt	**49-37**
Sectionals:	
Hammond Clark	**78-51**
Kankakee Valley	**61-46**
Hammond High	**65-53**
Regionals:	
Northwestern	**61-35**
Mishawaka Marian	**41-24**
Semi-State:	
Marion	58-60


Varsity Basketball

Tremell Murphy, 12

Kelston Haden, 12


Al Ervin, 11

Isaiah Martinez, 12

While playing against Kankakee Valley in the sectional championship, senior Martin Schiele successfully shoots the ball. "This was one of my best 3-point shooting games. I felt good in warm ups and even better during the game," said Schiele.

During the Griffith versus Roosevelt game, senior Anthony Murphy gets ready to shoot a free throw. "Being a senior was hard because I'll miss playing with my team on the home court. We all have a bond that can't be broken," said Murphy.

Varsity

Row 1: Martin Schiele, Kelston Haden, Greg Teamer, Anthony Quintero, Al Ervin, Greylon Teamer, Isaiah Martinez
Row 2: Michael Brown, Grayling Gordon, Laderrick Williams, Cornell Hampton, Jake Dye, Tremell Murphy, Anthony Murphy, Marcus Marsenic, Torin Dillon, Gary Hayes

Junior Varsity

Row 1: Tray Boone, Dontray Estelle, Amere Williams, Michael Kantor, Hector Vega, Alaa Mroueh
Row 2: Al Williams, Timothy Lawson, JoeNathan King, Aarion Harvey, Deshawn Williams, Deaaron Harvey, Michael Brown

Freshmen

Row 1: Craig Gordon, Jayln Perry-Bell, Delorean Butler, Joshua Peterson, Xavier Robinson, Triston Sanders, Matthew Peterson, Anson Wright
Row 2: Anthony Lane, Evan Jones, Laricco Brooks, David Garrett, Alante Fortier, Kyle Iwinski, Elijah Faulkner

Varsity

Row 1: Desarae Garcia, Lilyana Salazar, Robyn Helton, Rachel Deck, Alex Colomes, Catlyn Mulligan, Grace Szymanski
Row 2: Kym Roberts, Tim McCoy, Sierra Slaven, Ma'zhani Hatchett, Erica Kik, Brittany Shelley, Victoria Perez, Dustin Nelson, Kerri Nelson

Junior Varsity

Row 1: Grace Szymanski, Catyln Mulligan, Kirsten Edwards, Sierra Slaven, Kaelyn Price, Kamryn Pulliam
Row 2: Kerri Nelson, Victoria Perez, Jazaria Daniels, Abigail Strauch, Kym Roberts

Opponent:	Score:
Calumet	33-45
Hammond	15-37
Lake Central	6-76
River Forest	17-42
Wheeler	23-44
Hobart	19-53
Hammond Morton	33-79
Washington Twp.	23-61
Kankakee Valley	18-63
Hebron	24-41
Rensselaer Central	30-48
Andrean	18-62
Munster	23-50
Crown Point	24-72
Whititng	**54-45**
Lowell	31-52
Portage	9-57
Kankakee Valley	28-74
Hammond Gavit	**48-19**
Hammond Clark	30-44
Highland	24-60
Lowell	15-33
Bowman Academy	**44-41**
Sectionals:	
Lighthouse CPA	15-64

Final Record: 3-20

After the official's call, senior Ma'zhani Hatchett waits for the other team to throw the ball in. "I think this season has gone pretty good despite all of the changes that happened. I think the whole new team and I pulled together," said Hatchett.

Hoop, there it is

This year, the girls' basketball team went through a number of changes. These changes included a new coaching staff, a new varsity team, and junior varsity team. "This season started off rocky with all of the new changes, but we pulled through and made the best of the season," said senior Alex Colomes.

The girls' season started off in April with conditioning. For conditioning, they did scrimmages with the middle school team, ball handling drills, free throws, suicides, sprints, and other endurance drills to get ready for the upcoming season. "Conditioning can be pretty draining because we do so much but it keeps us in shape and makes playing games easier on our bodies," said junior Desarae Garcia.

They played their first game against Calumet at the beginning of November. They lost 33-45, but were still hopeful for the season ahead. "We knew this season would be challenging because of all the changes being made, but we remained optimistic through it all," said freshman Kamryn Pulliam.

To prepare for spending the next few months together, the girls bonded by having parties and going out to eat. At the beginning of the year, the girls went to Coach Nelson's house and played games and hung out. During the holidays, they did secret santa at a tournament by picking out of a hat. For senior night, the girls all decided on a senior from the team that they would like to give a gift to. At senior night, the seniors on the team were presented over the speakers and got their presents from the underclassmen. "Bonding is really important to our team because it makes us closer and helps us work together on the court," said junior Lilyana Salazar.

Throughout the course of the season, the girls faced many new challenges due to the new team. There were practices, drills, and a lot of dedication to get the team to be their best. "The practices could get very hard and tiring but in the end everything paid off and we learned a lot from each other," said senior Erica Kik.

Although the season may not have gone the way the girls wanted, they remain positive for the next season and spending more time getting to know each other and playing together. "I'm really excited for the future seasons and getting to play the sport I love," said sophomore Grace Szymanski.

While playing on defense, junior Rachel Deck helps her team by blocking a player of the Lowell Devils. "I think our team worked really well together being our first year with a new coach," said Deck. "I have been playing since 2nd grade."

In the middle of a decision, sophomore Victoria Perez holds the ball. "I was thinking about the smartest way I could pass the ball to get a basket. At the beginning of the season, it was rough, but I improved with the team," said Perez.

Senior Night

"I made a blanket for one of the seniors and it felt really satisfying to give gifts to them because they taught me a lot and they deserved to be honored in some way. I think the gifts really made the seniors feel worthy and admirable. The entire team has been through a complete change and the seniors pulled the team together and it worked. Everyone was very emotional that night because we knew it meant the season was coming to an end. A lot of them cried because they were so happy that the team came together to make their last day playing their favorite sport special."

Catlyn Mulligan, 9

"It was really memorable and bittersweet. A lot of us cried because knowing that all of it is coming to an end is kind of sad. Seeing all of the achievements earned and how everyone improved was really special to see. All of the seniors felt really extraordinary and grateful for the gifts we received and how well the team worked together. They really did everything they could to make sure our night was special. We all really appreciated the effort, time and dedication that the girls put into this season despite all the changes. I can't wait to come back and see how they're doing."

Robyn Helton, 12

Time to Strike

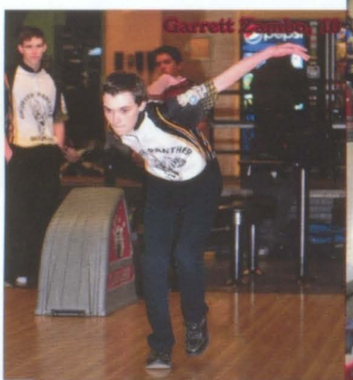
It all began in mid October. As the coaches watched and saw what each bowler had to offer, they decided who would be the best for the team. Once the bowlers found out they made the team, they jumped right into Tuesday and Thursday practices. All the bowlers had to compete at practice to see who the top five would be for the upcoming match. "I enjoyed the energy we had and how the team bonded and became a family," said sophomore Kyle Cartwright.

This year, the boys took the second place spot with a 10-2 record and the girls took third with a 7-5 record. After the regular season, both teams took off to accomplish what they had in mind: getting past sectionals. The number of practices each week increased and coaches became more technical in order to produce their best chance at advancing in the post-season. "To prepare for sectionals, I mentally brought myself to the match since it was my last sectionals," said senior Gage Corona.

The sectional tournament was a two day event on the weekend of January 30th at Plaza Lanes in Highland. The first day was team and next day was individuals. Placing second in a close match, the girls' total pin count topped Highland's, advancing them to regionals. The boys placed second as well, earning their rightful spot in the second round. At the singles competition, a total of five bowlers made it out of sectionals. Seniors Kersten Collins and Andrew Bowman, junior Ale Albanese, and freshmen Jake Collins and Chris Albanese moved on to Michigan City the following weekend. Jake not only placed in sectionals, he also shot his first 300 game.

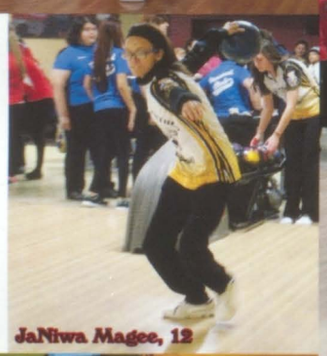
After regionals, Ale was the only individual bowler to make it to semi-state. Team wise, the boys dominated the competition and stole the fourth and final spot to bowl in Fort Wayne on February 13th. The nail-biting weekend resulted in a trip to state in Lafayette for the boy's team, an accomplishment that hasn't been achieved since Griffith's state championship in 2007. At state, the boys placed ninth and kept their hometown's name alive.

Seniors were abundant this season. As the year wound down, the bowlers and coaches said goodbye to nine graduates. Although the team's number drastically decreased, the program's credibility did not changed and the future potential remained high.



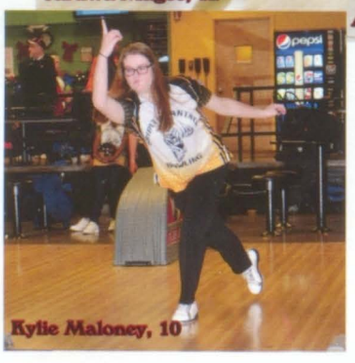
Garrett [illegible], 10

Laura Shipley, 12



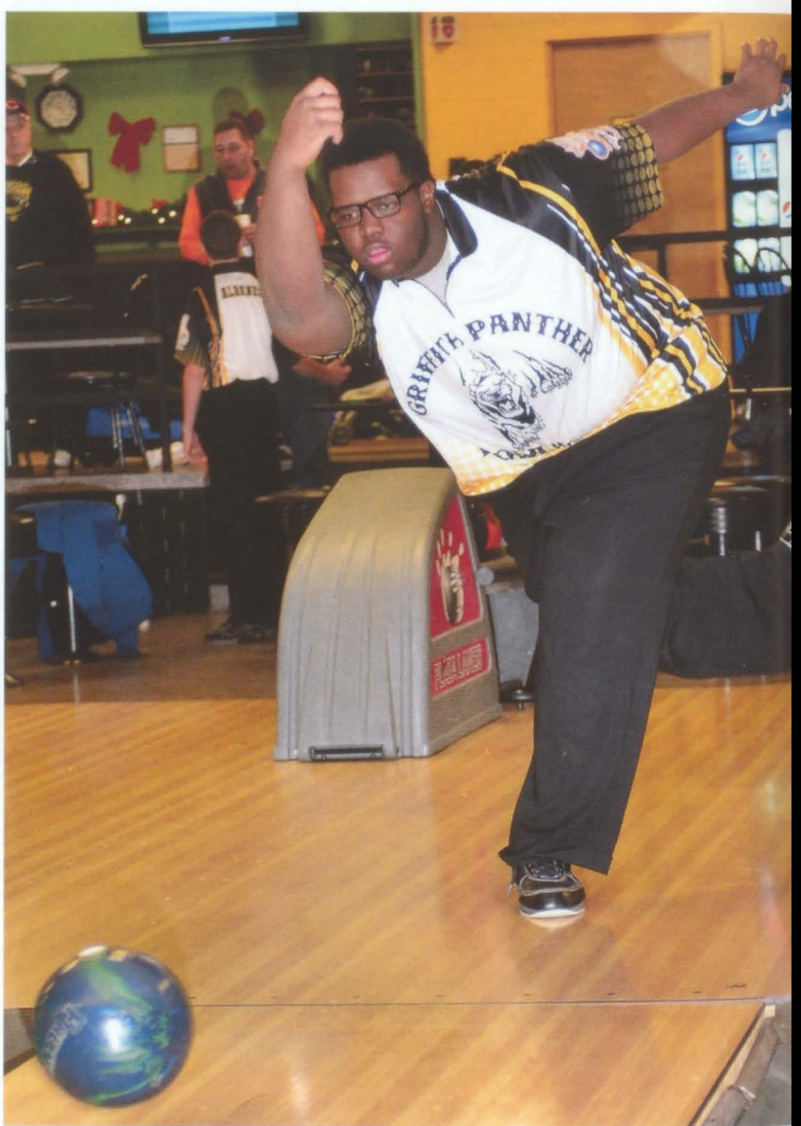
JaNiwa Magee, 12

Ale Albanese, 11



Kylie Maloney, 10

In his last year as a Griffith bowler, senior Gio Posely looked to have one of the most memorable bowling seasons in his high school career. "All four years of high school bowling went by so fast and this year by far was the best," said Posely.



Opponent:	Boys:		Girls:
Clark	**18-2**	**Bishop Noll**	**20-0**
Merrillville	**17-3**	**Highland**	**12-8**
Morton	**19-1**	**Clark**	**18-2**
Lake Central	2-18	Highland	8-12
Bishop Noll	**18-2**	Morton	**15.5-4.5**
Merrillville	**16-4**	Lake Central	3-17
Andrean	**18-2**	Lake Central	7-13
Highland	9.5-10.5	**Bishop Noll**	**20-0**
Calumet	**18-2**	Highland	6-14
BYE	**20-0**	Morton	3-17
Clark	**19-1**	**Clark**	**17-3**
Lake Central	**12-8**	**Morton**	**15-5**
Sectionals:	2nd	Sectionals:	2nd
Regionals:	4th	Regionals:	8th
Semi-State:	6th		
State:	9th		

Final Records:

Boys 10-2

Girls 7-5

Boys

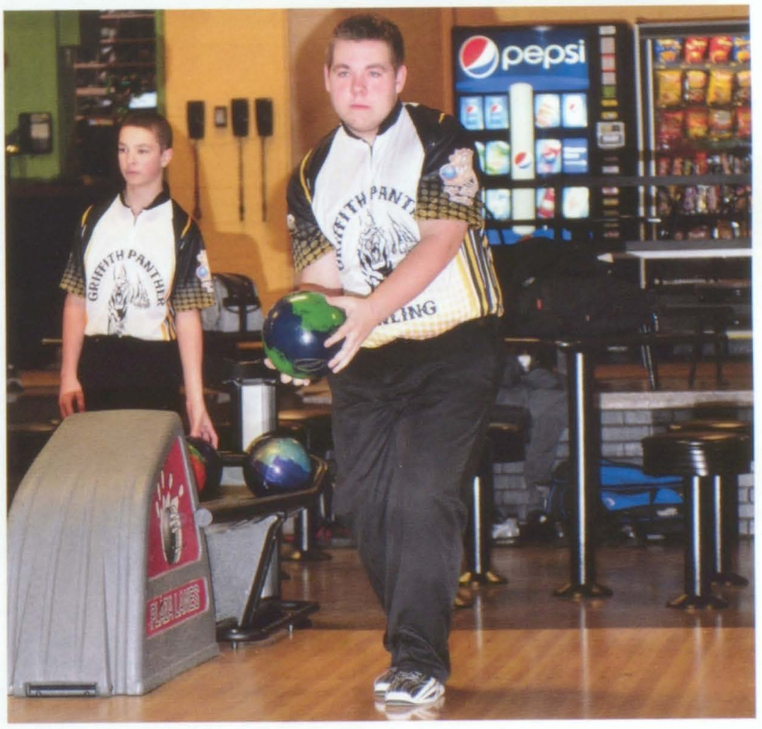
Row 1: Gage Corona, Garrett Zambo, Michael Koliboski, Christian Kruse, Chris Albanese, Derrick Peatry, Nathan Ward
Row 2: Bobby Collins, Anthony Slawikowski, Kyle Cartwright, Jake Collins, Andrew Bowman, Nathan Vuckovich, Gio Posley, Johnny Lawson, Ed Olszewski

Girls

Row 1: Taylor Grady, Makiyah Perry-Bell, Ale Albanese, Elisabeth Lawson, Yamia Smith
Row 2: Linda Olszewski, Delia Booker, Kylie Maloney, Laura Slayton, Kersten Collins, Erica Ward, JaNiwa Magee, Rick Woloszyn

Focused on the pins and looking at his target, freshman Chris Albanese hoped to do his best to help the team go far in the regular and postseason. "For only being a freshman, I have completed a lot of my goals for bowling," said Albanese.

Following the saying, "Hard work pays off," senior Andrew Bowman worked hard at practice to improve his game and prepare for the upcoming match. "I focused really hard at all the practices to try and get better to help my team," said Bowman.



Boys

Row 1: Evan Queen, Matthew Thomas, Cristian Haddock, Andrew Garcia, Collin Meadows
Row 2: Alyssa Stengel, William Schneider, Logan Sammons, Josh Zoran, Jamahl Johnson, Richard Damron, Emily Ferguson, Theresa McLoughlin

Girls

Row 1: Reta Haddad, Megan Miller, Christina Li, Caroline Loughren, Marissa Perez, Diana Muro
Row 2: Samantha Rettie, Courtney Smith, Macie Miller, Mikensie Shultman, Christine Morikis, Stephanie Lester, Alexis Hogan, Trinity Austin
Row 3: Alyssa Stengel, William Schneider, Jordan Langel, Leanna Early, Chyna Gerloff-Rex, Makenna Sons, Dara Meece, Veronica Matthews, Lauren Kovacic, Emily Ferguson, Theresa McLoughlin

Opponent: Score:

	Boys:		Girls:
Munster	L	Highland	L
Gavit	L	Lowell	L
Hobart	L	Munster	L
Kanakee Valley	L	**Gavit**	**W**
Rensselear	5th	Hobart	L
Wheeler	4th	Kanakee Valley	L
Morton	L	Rensselear	5th
Highland	L	Wheeler	3rd
Lowell	L	**Morton**	**W**
Clark	L	**Clark**	**W**
Bishop Noll	L	**Bishop Noll**	**W**
Hammond	**W**	**Hammond**	**W**
East Chicago	**W**	**East Chicago**	**W**

Final Records:
Boys 2-11
Girls 6-7

During the homecoming parade on Broad Street, sophomores Matthew Thomas and Veronica Matthews marched while representing the swim team. "I think the parade gave the swim team some good publicity," said Thomas.

Diving In

The swim team dove down in the water and started their conditioning in October. They got in shape by first doing dry land drills, which included ab workouts and cardio. Once they got into the water, they learned basic skills for swimming and doing laps. At the beginning of conditioning, they took it easy, but at the end of the season, they were doing over twenty laps in a practice.

Once November hit, the teams were ready for competition. They practiced Monday through Friday after school until 6 p.m. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the athletes were expected to be at the pool by 6 a.m. for morning practices. "Morning practices were harder than after school practices because, for most of us, we had just woken up and were still tired from sleep. In the end, I think the morning practices benefited us because it helped us gain strength. Also, once class started I was energized and awake," said freshman Diana Muro.

In order to fundraise for their program, the swim team sold butter braids, pierogies, and Yankee Candle products for money and raised a plentiful amount for their season. They also held a pasta night before every meet at one member's house. "Having a pasta night before every meet was a great way to get to know each other and bond as a team," said junior Megan Miller.

All teams in the district qualify for sectionals on day one, but to qualify for day two, the swimmer has to make the top 16 for each individual race. The day two qualifiers included sophomore Matthew Thomas, junior Dara Meece, seniors Eva Solis, Lauren Kovacic, and Marissa Perez.

This season, the swim teams had a total of six seniors. At the last meet, the seniors celebrated their senior night and reminisced on the memories that they made throughout the season. Logan Sammons, Josh Zoran, Jamahl Johnson, Caroline Loughren, Marissa Perez, and Lauren Kovacic all swam their final races and said goodbye to their teammates. "My last meet was upsetting because I will never get to swim with that group of girls again," said senior Marissa Perez. "I was also a bit relieved, though, because the morning practices were over."

Even though the team's records didn't add up to their expectations, the swimmers and divers continued with their determination towards improvement.

Swimming vs Diving

"I chose to swim because I wanted to challenge myself in a way I haven't before. The worst part about swimming was the morning practices because the pool was really cold in the morning and as the year went on the drills we did kept getting harder throughout the year. My best time in a meet was 34 seconds in a 50 yard freestyle."

Christine Morikis, 11

"I liked diving more than swimming because it was a change to learn something new. I really enjoyed this change and I feel like I made a good decision. I went to SkyZone to work on my flips on the trampolines and it helped a lot. I came in first place at multiple meets and it made me feel very accomplished. My hard work paid off in my meets."

Chyna Gerloff-Rex, 11

While at a swim meet at Griffith High School, freshman Andrew Garcia watches his teammates compete. "I've created some amazing friendships through swimming. I'm thankful for having such supportive teammates," said Garcia.

Cheers filled the pool room as freshman Reta Haddad and her teammates yelled for a victory. "In swimming, everyone on your team supports you. They're all cheering and screaming for you at the end of a race," said Haddad.

Sprawling for Victory

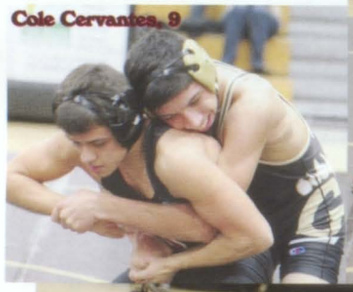
For the 2015-2016 wrestling season the team was cut in size after the loss of seniors and others who decided not to rejoin. Despite the lower numbers, each wrestler worked hard every practice to prepare for long exhausting matches. The boys had to fight through the pain of a strict diet for months, but pushed through. Some had to push their limits by cutting weight, and training for extra hours before and after their scheduled meets and practices.

"I've played other sports, but wrestling is definitely one of the hardest ones. It is physically draining, yet rewarding after winning a match. I feel like all my hard work paid off," said freshman Anthony Garnica.

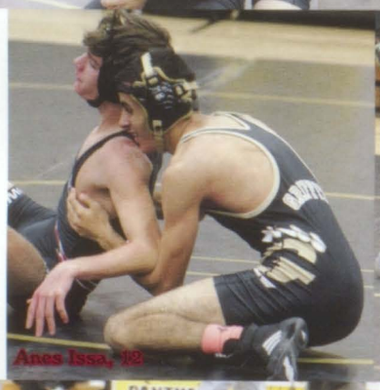
The Panthers had a winning record of 10-5 and it was a successful year for many of the wrestlers. At the Lake County tournament, seniors Rocco Renton and Anes Issa earned first place. Freshman Cole Cervantes and junior Jeremiah Reitz both won the NCC conference in their weight classes. Along with winning conference, Reitz was the sectional and regional champ. He also took second place in semi-state which gave him his third ticket to state. Down at the state tournament, Reitz wrestled four matches and made it to the finals, then took second place at 120 pounds.

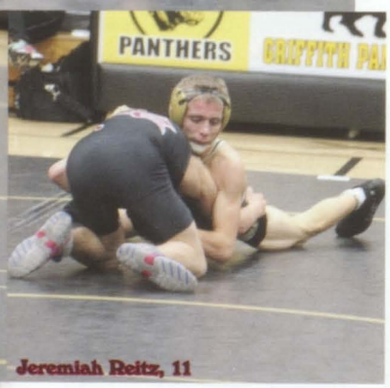
"Going to state is such a humbling experience and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity three times. Next year I will strive like I never have before because it will be my last chance to take the title of state champ. Staying focused, dedicated, and disciplined by my coaches has helped me through each season," said Reitz.

"I didn't get the opportunities to wrestle as many matches as I wanted to because I had a shoulder injury, but next year I plan to wrestle again. I healed and next year, I really want to get as far in the post season as possible," said freshman Johnny Maynard. Coaches Anthony Zardnt, Christopher Mares, Dan Bedoy, and Francisco Cervantes plan to work with the young wrestlers to improve their skills for the 2016-2017 season in order to make up for the loss of their five seniors. They feel that the team is full of young potential. They hope that the team will grow in numbers and talent so that they can continue to receive a winning record and send wrestlers to the state tournament.

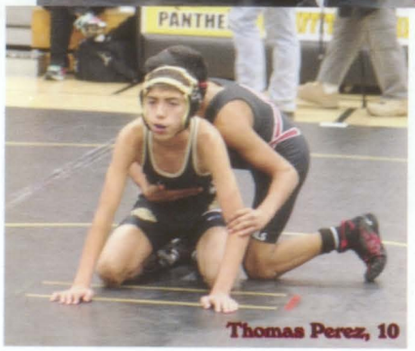

Cole Cervantes, 9

Trenton Pulliam, 10


Anes Issa, 12

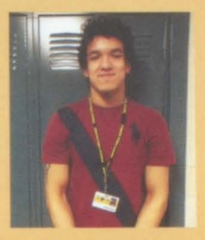


Jeremiah Reitz, 11


Thomas Perez, 10

In deep focus senior Oscar Magallanes gets advice from coach Dan Bedoy. "He is a great coach and has really improved not only my skills, but my confidence on the mat. His advice helped me think faster and win matches," said Magallanes.

If I could, I would...



"I had very high expectations and goals for myself during this past season, because it was my senior year. If I could, I would have worked a lot harder and put more effort into every match so that I could've made it further in the post season. Going to state was always a dream of mine. My high school career in wrestling was definitely enjoyable."

Rocco Renton, 12

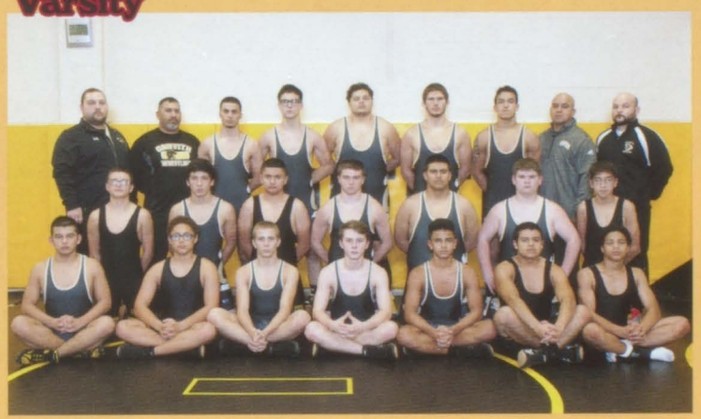
"My freshman year of wrestling was a little scary, because the upperclassmen were so much more experienced than I was. If I could, I would have started wrestling at a very young age, so that I would've performed better and had more knowledge about the moves. I look forward to the coming years, though."

Mason Isenblatter, 9

In the middle of a challenging match senior Michael Torres holds down his opponent from Lowell at a home meet. "No match was ever really easy. Wrestling takes strength and quick thinking to get a pin or even just a win by points," said Torres.

With pen in hand, senior Ben Stassin prepares to commit to the University of Wisconsin to continue his wrestling career. "It's what I've always done and I'm not ready to stop yet. I'm excited to get out of state and to see new things," said Stassin.

Varsity



Row 1: Christopher Mares, Stephon Murphy, Jeremiah Reitz, Trenton Pulliam, Keith Hernandez, Diego Burgos, Christian Raglin
Row 2: Anthony Garnica, Cole Cervantes, Ceasar Valdez, Johnny Maynard, Manny Aguire, Zach Steele, Thomas Perez
Row 3: Anthony Zardnt, Francisco Cervantes, Anes Issa, Oscar Magallanes, Michael Torres, Ben Stassin, Rocco Renton, Chris Mares, Dan Bedoy

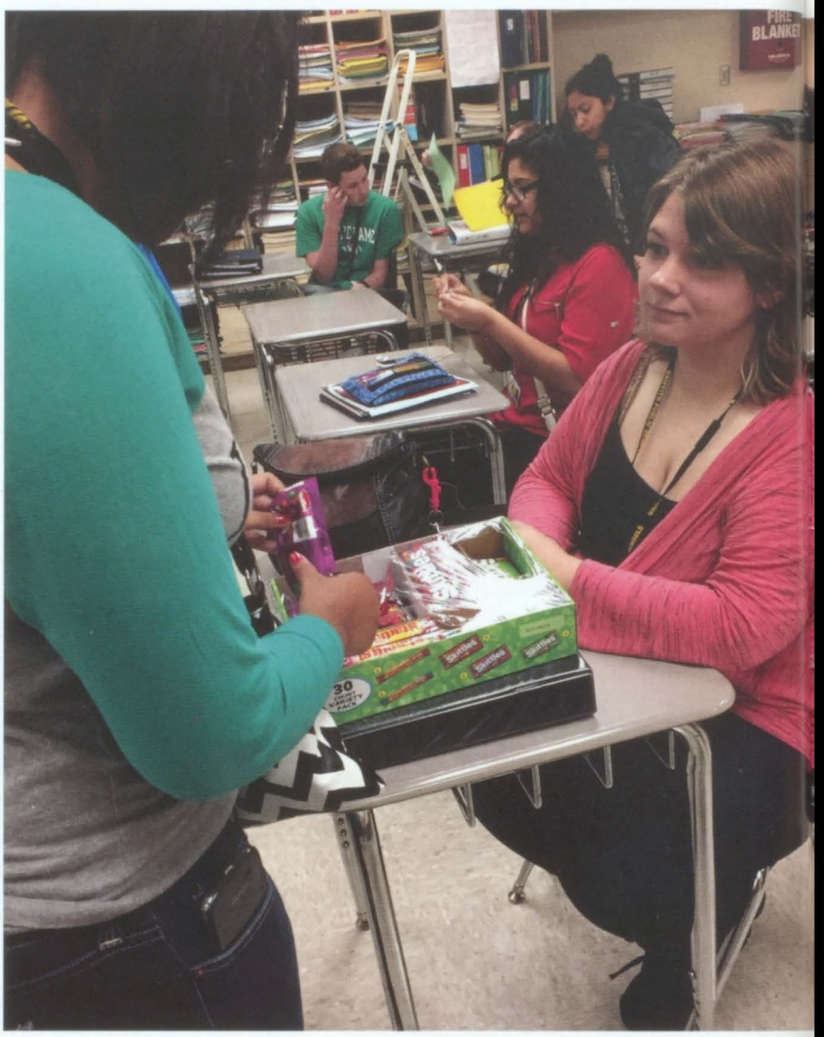
Opponent:	Score:
Lowell	24-51
Hanover Central	**54-12**
Munster	**56-6**
Concord	**45-30**
Chesterton	15-58
Laporte	30-42
Michigan City	**39-24**
Highland	**41-36**
Andrean	**48-33**
Kankakee Valley	24-50
Calumet	**44-21**
S.B. Washington	**39-25**
Hobart	30-47
Sectionals:	
Calumet	**45-28**
Lake Station	**55-18**

Final Record: 10-5

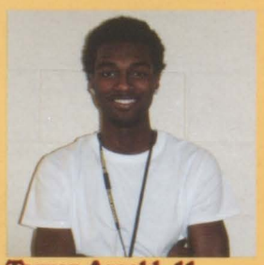
Juniors

While at lunch, juniors Sabrina Dodson and Erin Escorza laugh with each other while playing on their phones at lunch. "I love Sabrina, she makes my day and we are always laughing when we're together," said Escorza.

Selling candy for her band class, junior Kayla Schramm showed her customer the variety of candies she had. "I remember the first day I got the box, I had so many people come buy from me. By the end of the day it was nearly gone," said Schramm.



Unusual Foods



Tarves Arnold, 11

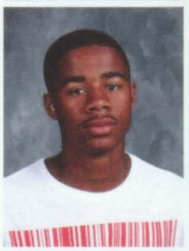
"The weirdest food I have ever eaten would be clams. Not only do they look creepy, but the texture was worse. They were chewy and slimy, and it felt like it was slithering down my throat. I remember the taste, but can't describe it that well. All I can say is that it was absolutely disgusting. When I ate it, I was out to dinner with my family, and they talked me into trying something new. The rest of my family loved it, and laughed at the face I made when I first tried it. It was funny, I will admit.

Jennifer Chur, 11

"The weirdest food I have ever eaten would have to be calamari. Just the taste itself was so nasty I had to spit it out after the first bite. It kind of had a rubbery taste to it actually it reminded me of chewing a tire. When you try to swallow it, it won't go down! Its texture when you chewed it was similar to chewing bubble gum, well, a nasty, tire flavored bubble gum. I don't exactly remember when or why I tried calamari, but I do know that I will never get that taste out of my mouth, or try it again."

Renee Adams
Emmanuel Aguirre

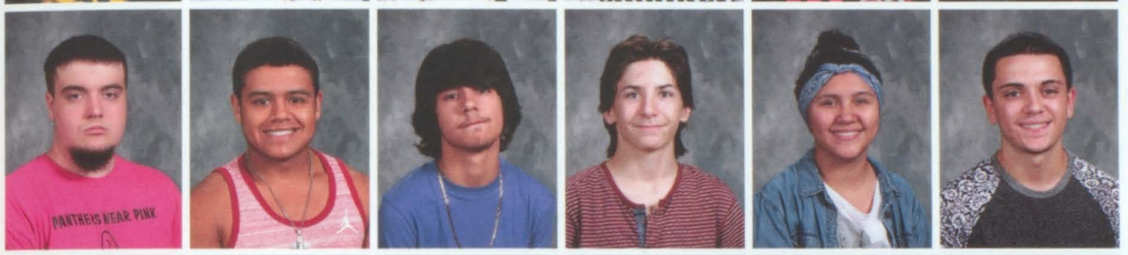
Alecia Albanese
Isaiah Allen



Daniel Almaraz
Karol Ames

Precious Anderson
Sean Bailey
Keon Ball
Mariah Barren
Federico Barriga
Bridget Beck

Michelle Beck
Jazzamin Benjamin
Armani Betts
Destiny Blackman
Tray Boone
Luke Broelmann



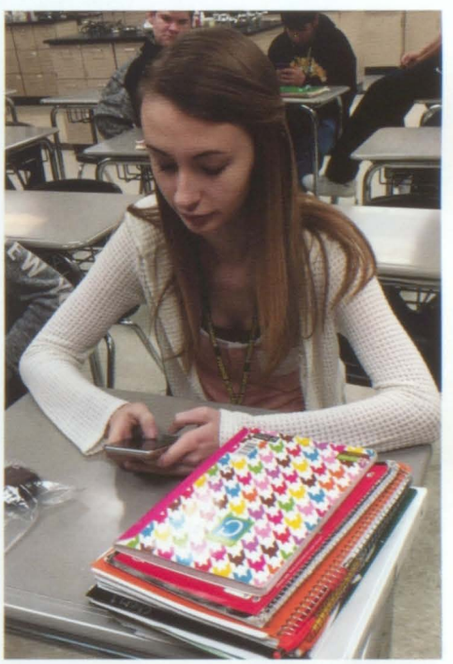
Zackary Brownd
Diego Burgos
Johnathon Byron
Anthony Caffarella
Michelle Cano
Elias Caraballo

Julia Carrillo
Maxine Carroll
Jaylen Carson
Khalil Carter
Joshua Cavazos
Lonnie Chabes

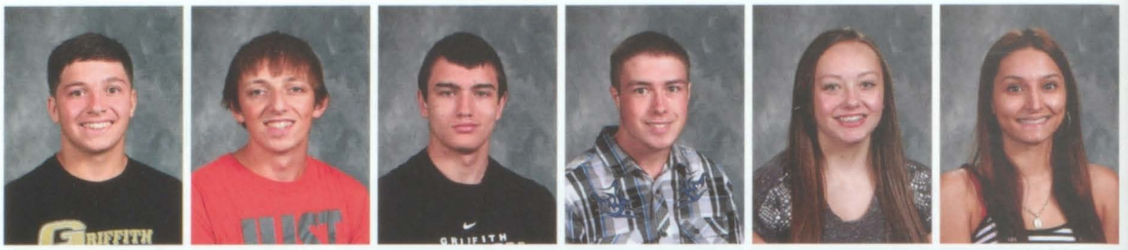
Phillip Cherry
Jennifer Chur
Courtany Cobb
Alexea Collins

As she took a break after a hard class of chemistry, junior Samantha Snell goes on her phone to pass time. "The class is hard at times so when I have free time I like to relax and play games on my phone," said Snell.

At a Best Buddies get together, junior Cassandra Metz gives her friend, senior Andrea Aguilar, a card. "The program is so much fun, I love being able to make new friends with the students while having a great time," said Metz.



Dennis Colomes
Hunter Conaghan
Cameron Crowe
Joseph Cunningham
Rachel Deck
Jocelyn DeLeon



Jessica Diaz
Torin Dillon
Samuel Dittrich
Abbey Dobosz
Sabrina Dodson
Sylvie Dowd

Leanna Early
Al Ervin
Ramiro Escamilla
Daniel Escorza
Erin Escorza
Stephen Esquivel

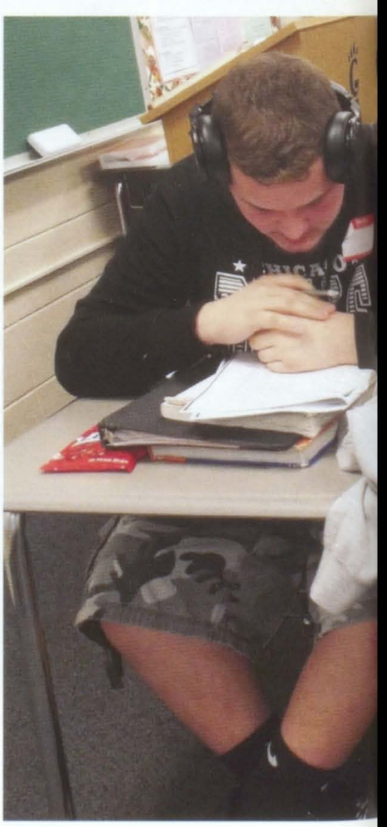
Dontray Estelle
Charles Flores
Joshua Fowle
Tyrone Freeman
Desarae Garcia
Delshaun Garner

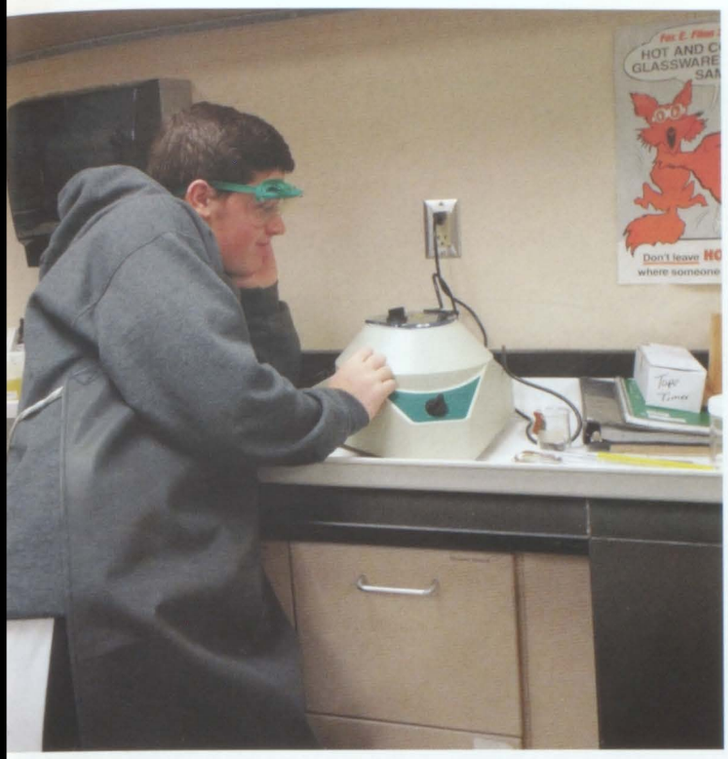
Chyna Gerloff-Rex
Jenny Gong
Emily Gonzales
Alexis Gonzalez
Gardenia Gonzalez
Joshua Goodman

Cameron Gordon
Carson Grin
Amber Grubish
Austin Guerrero

During the warmup before the Kankakee Valley vs. Griffith game, junior C.J. Hampton and ball boy, Kolin Gladney, get ready for the game. "Kolin has helped a lot for pre-game warmups and I would love to see him next year," said Hampton.

After hearing James Ford`s Spanish I instructions, junior Lonnie Chabes finishes his assignment. "My favorite thing to do in his class is to learn a new language. I learned how to communicate with others and speak, said Chabes.





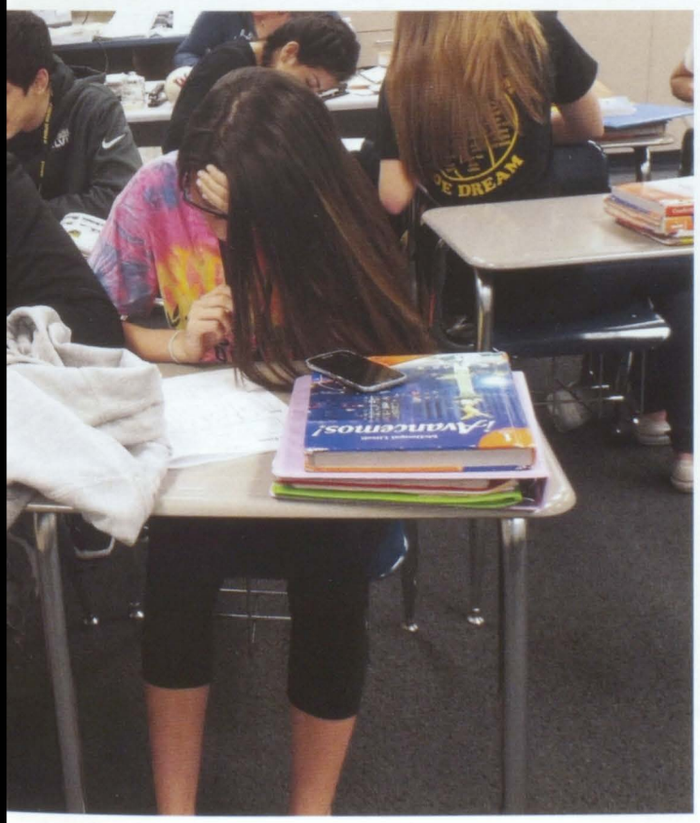
While waiting for the centrifuge, junior Sean Bailey works to finish his lab. "I enjoy being in this class. Mrs. KV is a very funny and sarcastic teacher and she always finds a way to keep the class interesting," said Bailey.

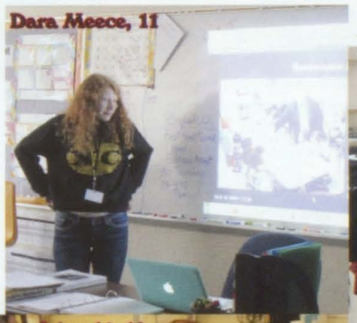
Selling 50/50 tickets at a basketball game, junior Rachel Kruhaj laughs with her fellow Best Buddy members. "I feel like they have changed my life and I love being able to spend time with them. The kids feel more comfortable," said Kruhaj.

Biggest Fear

"My biggest fear is getting in a plane crash. I always see tragic accidents happening on TV or just by other people. I have always had a phobia of planes because of the turbulence. Some movies have also made me more afraid of being on a plane or even worse, getting in a plane crash and getting hurt. I have only been on a plane three times, each for three hours, but I have had turbulence each time. Jenni Rivera was a famous artist who died in a plane crash and people were going wild because of it. This incident also made me a little more skeptical about planes and how they work."

Michelle Cano, 11

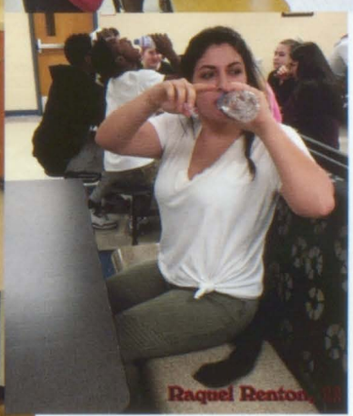




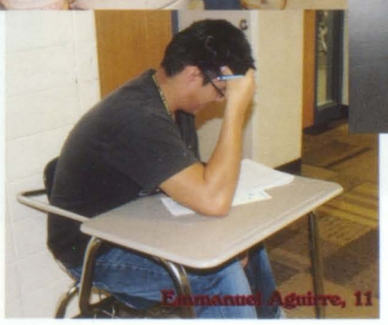
Dara Meece, 11

Zack Keil, 11

Dana Jelenski, 11



Raquel Renton, 11



Emmanuel Aguirre, 11

Brittany Gutierrez
Cristian Haddock
Natalie Halley
Breanna Hamilton
Gabriella Hamm
Cornell Hampton

Keith Hernandez
Julien Herrera
Zachary Hilgeman
Leyah Hodge
Kathryn Holt
Diana Huerta

Alexis Ingle
Jacob Janik
Chase Janowski
KayLynn Jarrells
Cody Jasaitis
Lillian Jeffers

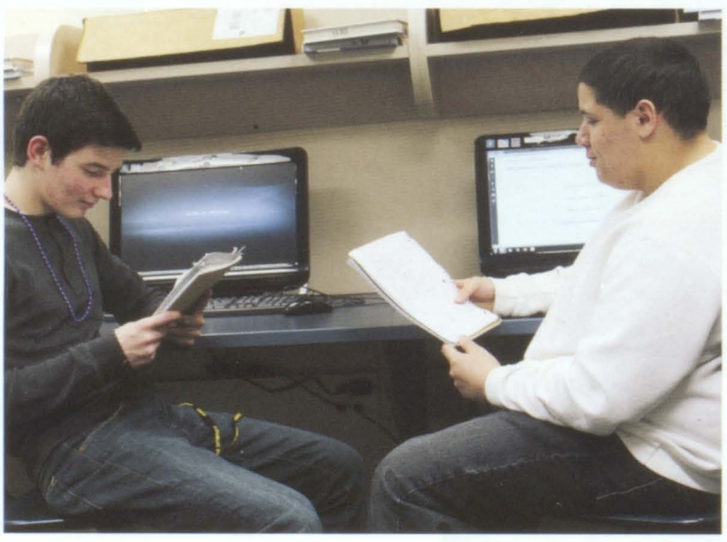
Way Back When...

Jason Munsey, 11

"Back in eighth grade, my friends and I were bored and decided to try and make homemade polish sausages. At first, things were going good, but then the polish sausages caught on fire and burnt the pan. The fire started spreading so we called the police and the fire department ended up coming and putting out the fire. Everyone was okay, so now I look back on it and laugh about what happened. It's an unforgettable memory."

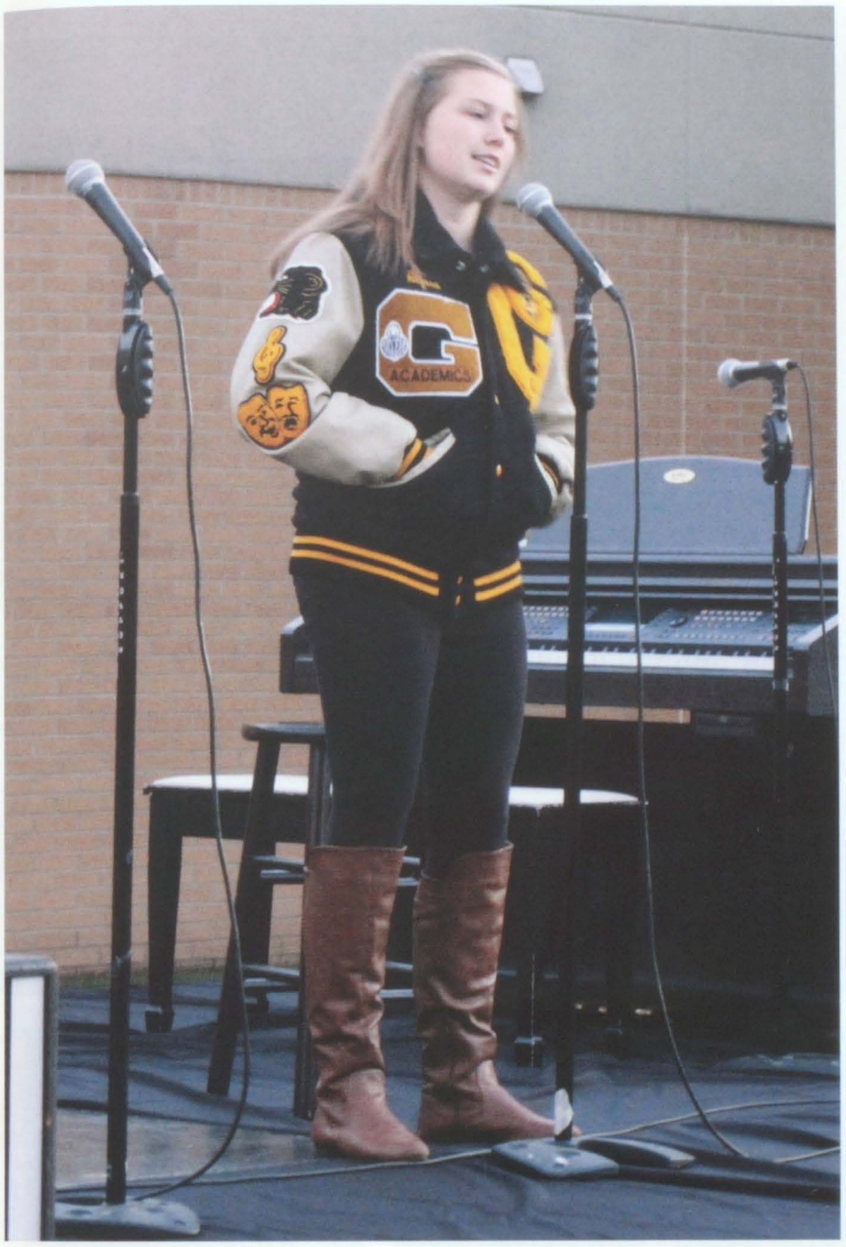
Gardenia Gonzalez, 11

"My freshman year at a track meet, there was a girl who face planted on the first hurdle of her race and I laughed so hard. Although I felt bad for her, I couldn't help but be thankful that it wasn't me. And then sophomore year came and I was doing hurdles indoor, which I've been doing since middle school, and I messed up my steps and face planted just as bad as the girl did. Because of that, I definitely believe in karma."



In credit recovery, juniors Tyler Hansen and Rafael Bruno help each other study for their lessons. "Credit recovery is very important because you have to earn back your credits in order to graduate. I always study so I can pass my tests," said Hansen.

Focusing on centering in ceramics II, junior Kasey Tinsley uses pressure and a tight grip to steady the clay. "Throwing takes a lot of practice and you have to be ready to work as soon as you step into class. It takes time," said Tinsley.



Ari Munoz, 11 & Amalia Montes, 11

Lauren Beaty, 10

Katie Holt, 11, Il-Lyse McGee, 11 & Molly Mills, 9

Mercedes San Miguel, 11

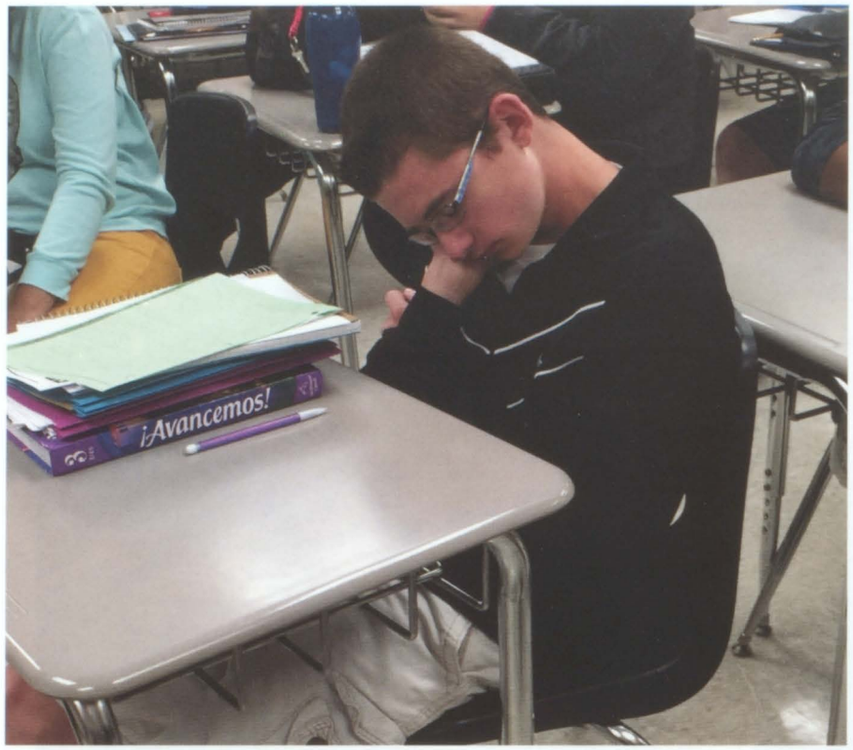
Brandon DeLeon, 11

At the fall coffee night, junior Alyssa Skertich performed her song "Bright" by Echosmith. "I wanted to perform in order to overcome my stage fright. It helped out a lot, and I'm proud of myself for pushing aside my fears," said Skertich.

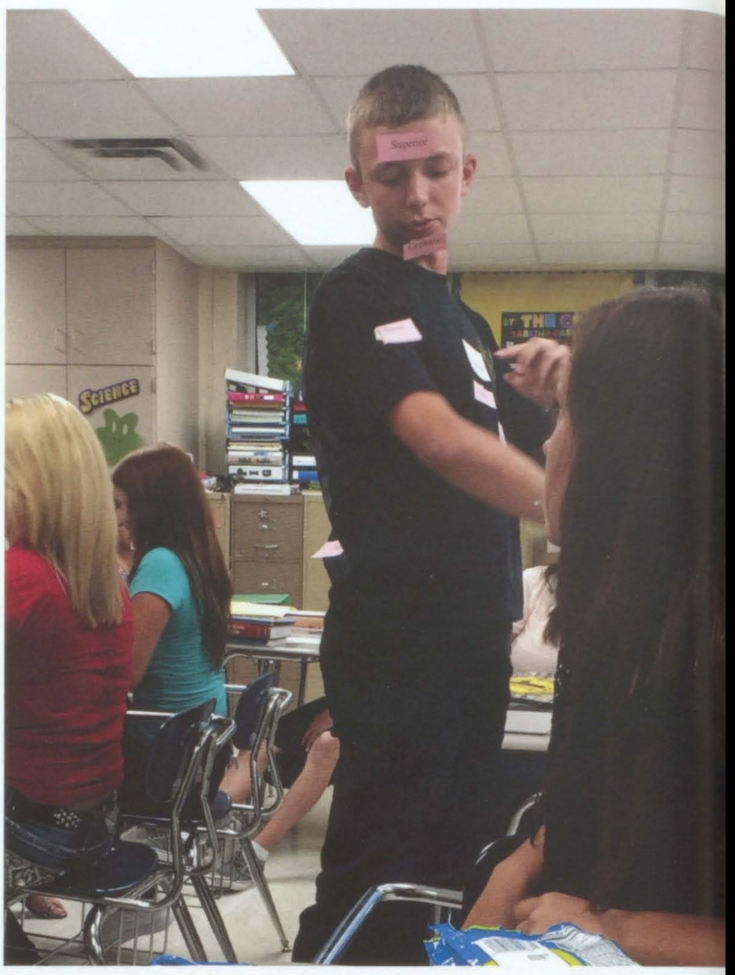
Dana Jelenski
Ethan Jones
Colton Jursic
Corynn Kealey
Zachary Keil
Adam Kent

Allison Klingensmith
Antonio Kneeland
Rachel Kruhaj
Kyle Labicki
Jonathan Lanfear
Carlos Lopez

Elias Lopez
Kelsy Lopez
Trevor Losiniecki
Megan Madrigal



Missing out on science, junior Andrew Masters takes a quick nap in class. "I was sleeping in class because I can never get enough sleep at night. Science is the perfect time for me to catch up on my sleep," said Masters.



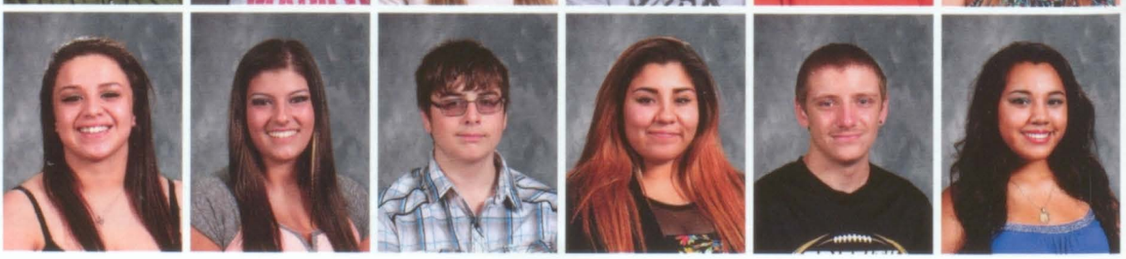
Junior Chase Janowski points at his heart while studying the parts of the body for his anatomy class. "We were trying to practice memorizing the parts of the body by placing sticky notes on the parts we needed to memorize," said Janowski.

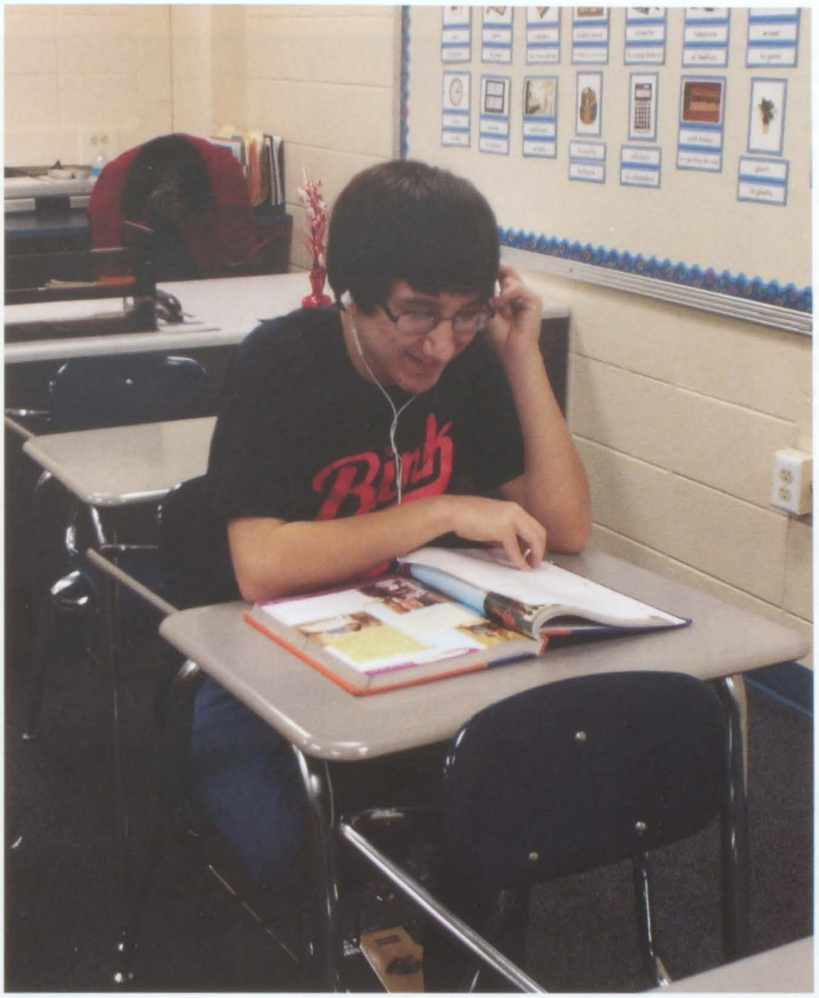
Isabella Maglish
Justine Martinez
Joseph Martoccio
Andrew Masters
Collin McCampbell
Iy-Lyse McGee

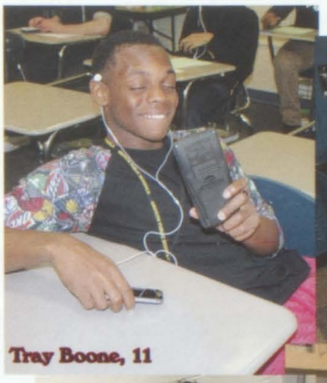
Matthew McGivney
Matthew McInerney
Kevin Means
Dara Meece
Cassandra Metz
Renee Mierzwa

Joshua Miller
Kiara Miller
Megan Miller
Noah Mitcheltree
Julian Molina
Amalia Montes

Susi Montes
Christine Morikis
Patrick Moseley
Ariana Muniz
Jason Munsey
Angelica Nava

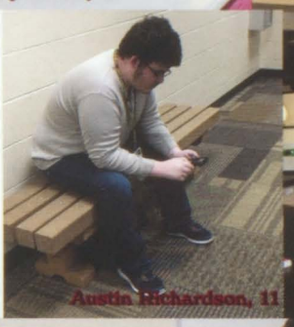






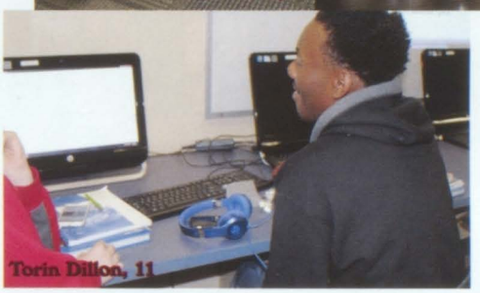
Tray Boone, 11

Allison Klingensmith, 11



Austin Richardson, 11

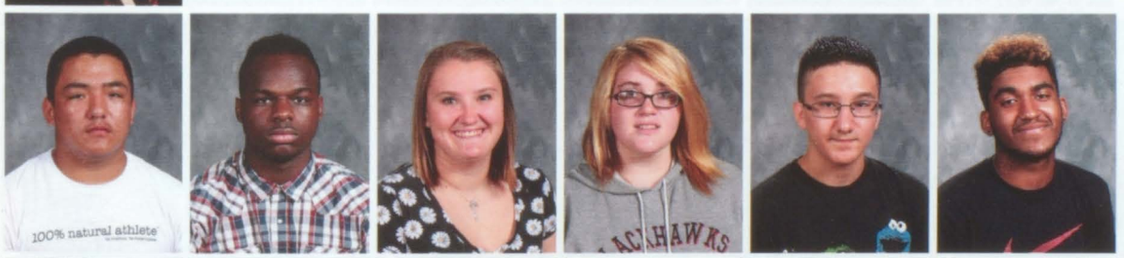
Courtney Cobb, 11



Torin Dillon, 11

Veronica Nieves

While enjoying his free time in class, junior Alec Pena listens to music when he's done with his work. "I like to listen to music because it helps me focus more in class. And its also a great way to pass the time by," said Pena.



Norberto Nunez
Bobby Parker
Emily Pawlicki
Briann Peek
Alec Pena
Corey Perkins

Kayla Piper
Luke Pospychala
Aliza Price
Kaelyn Price
Jawuan Pugh
Evan Queen

Martha Quiroga
Ashley Ramirez
Isaiah Ramirez
Amanda Ramos
Luke Reid
Jeremiah Reitz

Growing Up

"I got a debit card this year, which is a lot of responsibility. It takes a lot to not swipe every purchase you can think of. Car payments are also a big part of junior year, as gas can be expensive. For school, this is a very tough year academically because of the AP courses. The workload was doubled from anything from before, and the material is more advanced, preparing you for college."

Evan Queen, 11

"This year I bought myself a car. I bought a 1995 Jeep Cherokee that I pay insurance on myself. I work two jobs in order to be able to pay the insurance every month. I work at Oberweis and Dan's Perogies. Junior year has been the hardest year so far for me because of all the classes and work and everything. Sometimes it gets really stressful."

Chyna Gerloff-Rex, 11

During picture day, juniors Zac Hilgeman, Matthew McInerney, and Noah Mitcheltree talk and laugh as they are waiting to take pictures. "I took a couple pictures that day for DECA and for International club," said Hilgeman.

David Renfro
Jason Reynolds
Austin Richardson
Brooklyn Richardson
Jorge Robinson
Monica Ross

Jacob Rothchild
Alexander Russell
Lilyana Salazar
Mercedes SanMiguel
Malik Sarsi
Jeremy Schaller

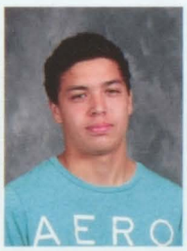
Sean Schoenborn
Kayla Schramm
Delaina Schrock
Alec Seberger
Trevor Sheffield
Andrew Shelton

Kaleb Sholey
Brooklyn Sierra
Alyssa Skertich
Alasia Smith
Samantha Snell
Joseph Soy

Heather Steele
Abigail Strauch
JeMauri Taylor
Alvineice Thomas
Kasey Tinsley
Daniel Uylaki

In Jim Pickett's Economics class, junior Desarae Garcia studies her notes. "The class is pretty easy, just as long as you pay attention. Pickett is a great teacher as well, he makes it interesting and very easy to understand," said Garcia.

Before school ends junior Patrick Moseley stops at his locker to put things away. "After a long day of school I just wanted to go home and rest and prepare for the next day. The end of the day is my favorite part of the day, " said Moseley.



Jasmine Valdez
Hector Vega
Ashley Vera
Melanie Vera
Michael Villalobos
Brandon Watson

Raejon Whitehead
Steven Whitehead
Amere Williams
Antonia Williams
LaDerrick Williams
Hollie Witvoet

Johnny Woods
Exavior Zeiler

GHS Student Section

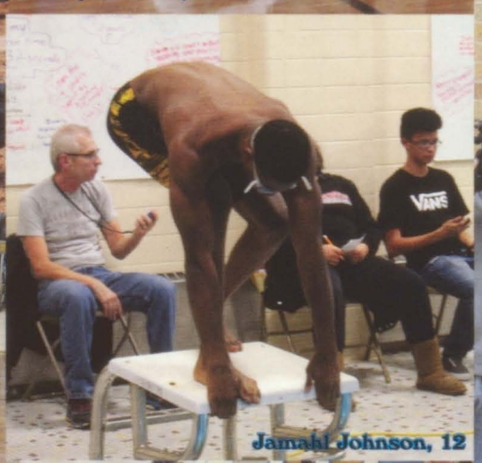
Adam Kent, 11, Gabe Dudlicek, 10, & Andrea Aguilar, 12

Tatyana Cima de Villa, 11

Timmy Lawson, 9

College & Career Fair

Governor Mike Pence



Jamahl Johnson, 12

Wheelchair Basketball Game

Seniors at Lunch

Chapter 4

In the last leap of the school year, things got a little crazy. Clubs were in full force as kids walked down the halls with boxes of candy to sell, raising money for DECA. Classroom meetings were held after school to plan decorations for prom and planning for the graduation ceremony.

Spring sports went into full swing as the baseball and softball fields were prepared for their first home games. The girl's tennis team prepared for their first match against LC, and the boy's golf team polished their clubs and practiced their swings. The Pantherettes danced at the state competition in New Castle, and the basketball hype continued through March.

On March 19th, the yarsity boy's basketball team was on their way to play in the semi-state championship to play for their ticket to state when tragedy hit. Going down I-65, one of the deadliest highways in the United States, a spilled drink caused a driver to sideswipe the school bus. Adriana Wright, the bus driver for the basketball team, struggled to regain control of the bus before they tumbled into a ditch and landed upside down. Fortunately, no one was severely injured, despite the condition of the smashed bus. The basketball team and coaching staff all left the scene of the accident with their lives. The semi-state game was rescheduled for the following Wednesday.

The senior class was full of anticipation as their last few months of being a high school student came to a close. The students voted for the senior superlatives that would be handed out at the senior banquet at the Croatian Hall in Merrillville, and students started to send out invitations for their summer graduation parties. Caps and gowns were received on Friday, April 29th and the "senioritis" was intense.

A very notable event occurred at GHS on Wednesday, April 27th. At around 1:40 p.m., students piled into the main gym for a special presentation by Governor Mike Pence. The purpose of his visit was to provide personal gratitude for the basketball team and their ability to keep fighting through their struggles. Governor Pence graciously offered the team and coach Gary Hayes with a basketball signed by Larry Bird.

On June 5th, the main gym was filled with families and friends of the graduating class. The students walked up one by one, called by name, to receive their diplomas. The ceremony was closed with speeches by class president Victoria Holtzer, Valedictorian Thomas Biancardi, and Salutatorian Marissa Perez. After, the class of 2016 walked out of GHS graduated and ready to start a new chapter in their lives.

Loading up the bus, the boy's golf team packs up their clubs to leave for their meet. "The first season of golf has been successful. If we continue to play the way we do, we have the ability to go pretty far," said freshman Chris Albanese.

Class of 2016 Info

President:
Victoria Holtzer

Vice President:
Adrian Lopez

Secretary:
Greg Copp

Treasurer:
Daniel Walker

Sponsors:
Jenna Candiano &
Michelle Udichitz

Class Size:
181 Students

Song:
"I Lived"
-One Republic

Colors:
Black & Gold

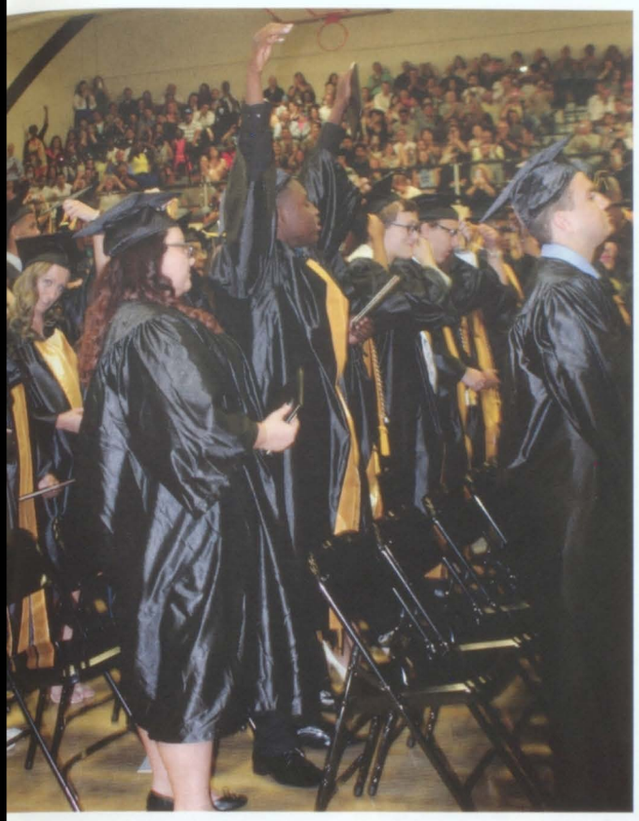
Flowers:
White Lily

Motto:
"You have brains in your head and feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."
-Dr. Seuss

Banquet:
April 14, 2016

Cookout:
May 27, 2016

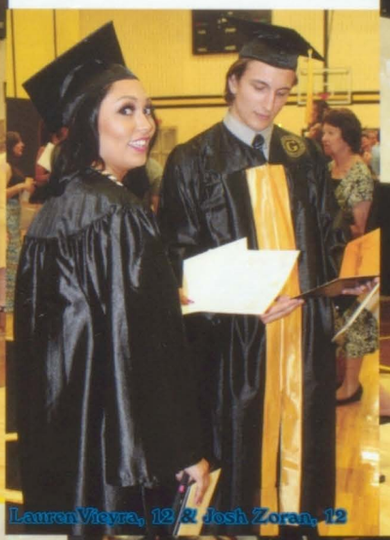
Graduation:
June 5, 2016



On June 5th, seniors and their families piled into the main gym in excitement for the commencement of the 2016 graduating class. People cheered and cried as they watched their fellow classmates move on to the next chapter of their lives.

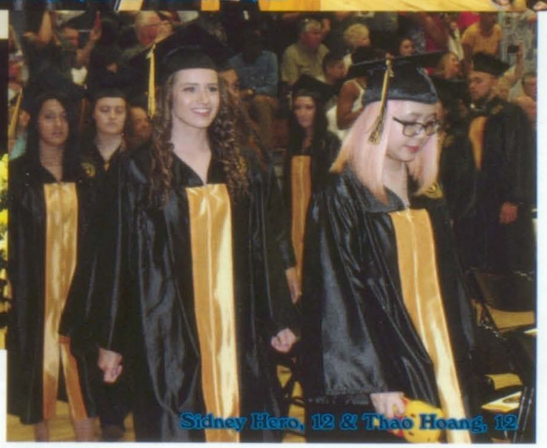
Tears were sure to be shed when the 2016 senior class president Victoria Holtzer gave her speech. "It felt amazing to be able to look at my class and remember all the memories we made before we parted our ways," said Holtzer.

Anthony Williams, 12


Lauren Vieyra, 12 & Josh Zoran, 12

Leandra Wimmer, 12

Tommy Biancardi, 12


Sidney Hero, 12 & Thao Hoang, 12

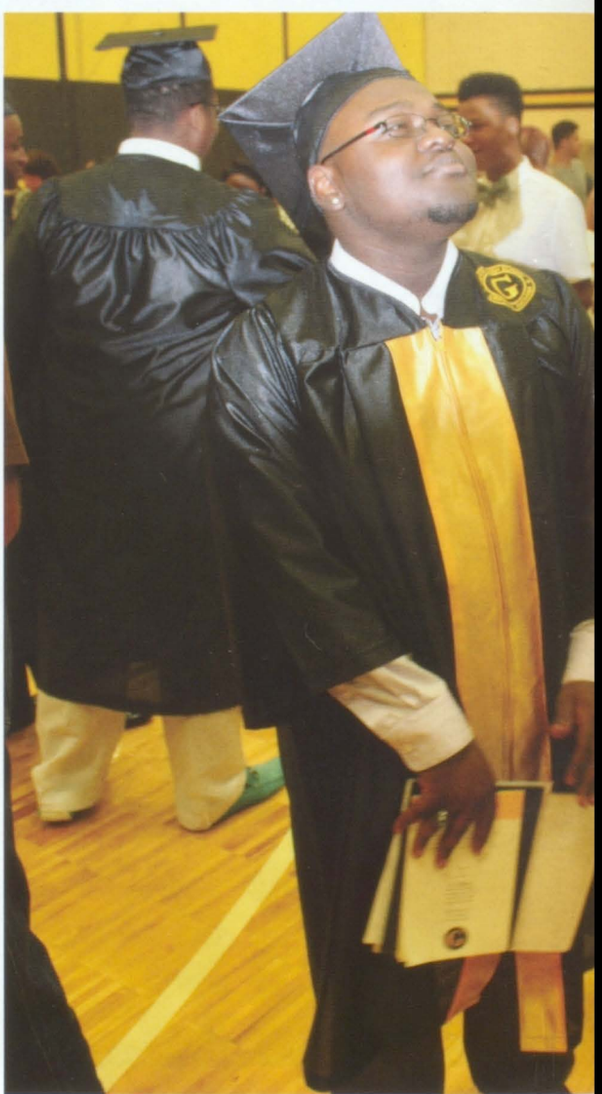
The graduates stood next to each other, anxious to accept their diplomas. "I graduated a year early and I'm very proud of all of the things that I've accomplished in my three years at GHS," said junior Jocelyn DeLeon.

We Are 2016

A group of senior boys gather around a flag on the beach on senior ditch day. "It was a really nice day out so I'm glad I spent it with my friends. There was about 30 of us and we had an enjoyable time together," said senior Jake Kamaski.

This year, the senior banquet was held on April 14th at the Croatian Hall in Merrillville. "The senior banquet was a good time. I enjoyed sitting at a table with all my pretty friends, reminiscing about what we'll miss," said senior LaTicia Howard.

During lunch, Herff Jones had a table set up for students to receive their graduation caps and gowns. "Getting my cap and gown made me realize how close senior year was to being over. It was kind of bitter sweet," said senior Griffen Metz.



Senior Superlatives

Best Eyes:

Tim Cichon & Robyn Helton

Best Smile:

Jacob Adams & Mia Barnes

Best Hair:

Jordan Galindo & Alex Colomes

Best Dressed:

Martin Schiele & Lauren Vieyra

Class Clown:

Josh Zoran & Erica Kik

Moodiest:

Connor Pascoe & Caroline Loughren

Biggest Flirt:

Oscar Magallanes & Karli Taylor

Most Athletic:

Tremell Murphy & Eva Solis

Biggest Gossip:

Anthony Quintero & Daniella Ayala

Most Likely to Succeed:

Kevin Matson & Marissa Perez

Best to Bring Home to Mom & Dad:

Kody Hoese & Kersten Collins

Most Likely to Win a Rap Battle:

Antonio Williams & Keyana Hayes

Most Likely to Take Over the World:

Scott Nolan & Kassie Cortez

Best Laugh:

Kelston Haden & Leandra Wimmer

Besties:

Sabrina Garcia & Lily Maravilla

Bromance:

Michael Hedrick & Corey Josephson

Cutest Couple:

Gio Posely & Arlynne Corona

Cutest Couple that Never Was:

Josh Zoran & Leandra Wimmer

Most Likely to be Late to Graduation:

Jeff Gautreaux & Sidney Hero

Most Artistic:

Griffin Metz & Alex Leon

Most Likely to Live in G-Town Forever:

Troy Cullen & Camryn Linders

Most Involved:

Michael Torres & Tiffany Novak

Most Sarcastic:

David Hom & Stephaine Cordova

Most Likely to Brighten Your Day:

Daniel Walker & Bethany Brucer

Best Nickname:

Dake (Jake Kamaski) &
Laundry (Leandra Wimmer)

Most GP4L:

Sammy Issa & Jillian Beaupain

Most Likely to Fall Asleep in Class:

Nathan Vuckovich & Dominiquie Hamm

Over Tweeter:

Anes Issa & Anissa Rivera

Teacher's Pet:

Tommy Biancardi & Victoria Holtzer

After the graduation ceremony, senior Derrick Peatry followed his fellow graduates of 2016 into the field house to receive his diploma. He also took pictures with family and friends before leaving the school one last time.

Gatsby Galore

The first week of May had almost every upperclassmen at GHS eagerly waiting for the weekend that they had been planning for. On May 6th, the junior class presented "The Great Gatsby" prom. Students who were to attend the dance left school early at 1:14 p.m., after 6th hour. Girls hurried to hair and make-up appointments, while guys picked up their tuxes.

"Running around after school was so hectic and stressful, but it all paid off once I was fully ready," said senior Vanessa Perez.

The theme song was "A Little Party Never Killed Nobody" by Fergie. The dance was held at The Halls of Saint George in Schererville. Picture hour started at 7 p.m. and dinner was served at 8:15. The menu consisted of pork loin, mashed potatoes, corn, vegetarian mostacholli, salad, and bread.

"The meal was very tasty. My favorite part about it was how juicy and tender the pork loin was," said junior Precious Anderson. "I had the funniest table; we all kept making jokes and planning our after-dance plans."

The 2016 prom queen nominees included Breanna Hamilton, Megan Miller, Melanie Vera, Gardenia Gonzalez, and Renee Mierzwa. The nominees for prom king included Cornell Hampton, Alec Seberger, Keith Hernandez, Trevor Sheffield, and Tray Boone. Previous king and queen, Adrian Lopez and Stephanie Cordova crowned the lucky two, Trevor Sheffield and Melanie Vera. The 2016 prom queen and king danced to the crowning song "Young and Beautiful" by Lana Del Rey.

"I was so surprised when they called my name for the prom royalty. I was very excited. Yes, I was upset when I didn't win, but Trevor really deserved it and I'm happy he won," said junior Tray Boone.

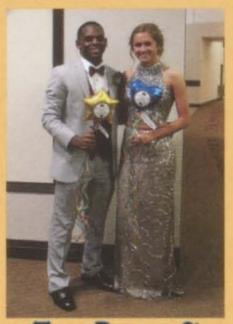
The evening of elegance concluded at midnight and all of the students headed their separate ways to their weekend festivities. Some students had rented out cabins or stayed at beach houses, while others went to downtown Chicago for some fun in the city.

"The following day I took my girlfriend (Brooklyn Richardson, 11) to Brookfield Zoo. We went out to dinner in Chicago. Sunday was Mother's Day, so I went to breakfast with my mom, then took my girlfriend to Six Flags. It was one of the best weekends of my life," said junior Julien Herrera.

Prom Court

Megan Miller & Alec Seberger

Trevor Sheffield & Melanie Vera



Tray Boone & Breanna Hamilton

Keith Hernandez & Renee Mierzwa

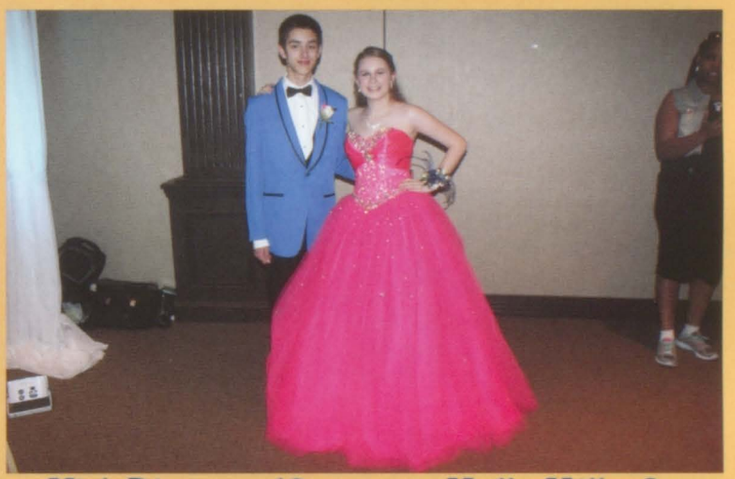
Cornell Hampton & Gardenia Gonzalez

While the crowning song "Young and Beautiful" blasted, king and queen danced alone in front of everyone. "Trevor was hilarious, he kept twirling me around. It was a memory that I'll never forget," said junior Melanie Vera.

Juniors Rachel Kruhaj and Stevie Esquival prepare themselves for a night of dancing after dinner. "She was beautiful. She was the best person to spend my first prom with. We both had an amazing night," said Esquival.

Enjoying her last prom, senior Kailey Shepard took selfies with her boyfriend. "Prom 2016 was the best dance, so it was perfect for my last one. Tushar (boyfriend) had a great time even though he didn't attend Griffith," said Shepard.

He Spent, She Spent



Nick Dieguez, 12

"For prom, my girlfriend and I split the prices for most of the things. I paid for my tuxedo, which included a blue jacket, black dress pants, a black vest with a white shirt, and a black bow tie. I spent $192 on it from Dunhill Tuxedos. I also purchased the tickets for us to go to the dance, and those were $90. I drove my grandpa's old classic car to the dance and to dinner afterwards. We went with some of my friends to Outback Steakhouse after the dance. I paid for mine and Molly's meal, which was about $60."

Molly Mills, 9

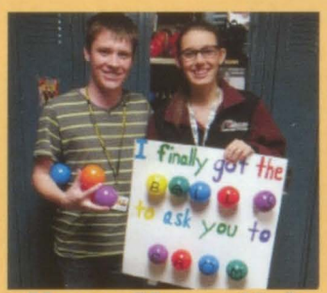
"In preparation for prom, I spent $175 on my hot pink prom dress. My shoes were $60. I borrowed my flowers and jewelry from my family so I didn't have to spend money on that. For my makeup, hair, and nails, my cousin's friend came to my house and did them. I purchased the professional photos that we took at the dance, which were $45. In total I spent $280 on prom. I was proud of myself for not spending too much, because a lot of people spend 3 times that amount on their prom and accessories."

At the beginning of prom, juniors Hollie Witvoet and Tatyana Cima de Villa show off their dresses to each other. "This was my second prom and it was a lot better than the first. I'm really excited to see how great next years will be," said Witvoet.

How I Was Asked

Karli Taylor, 12 & Corey Josephson, 12

"I asked Karli to prom because she's one of my best friends. It really didn't take that long to make the sign, only three days. She used her career center class to asked me to turnabout so I thought it would be cool if I did the same," said Josephson. "I was really excited when I saw how he asked me. It was super creative and it looked really cool too. I was super happy to be asked by my best friend because I knew that I would have a great time no matter what. He made my last prom the best," said Taylor.



Megan Mann, 12 & Ron Mulligan, 12

"I was walking to my locker after class one day. When I got there, I opened my locker and a bunch of plastic balls fell out. I was super shocked, but also super excited to be asked by one of my best friends," said Mann. "I was actually a little nervous to ask Megan even though I knew she would say yes. It was also a relief that asking her went as smoothly as I hoped it did. It felt great to be able to go to my last high school dance with someone I knew I would have a great time with," said Mulligan.

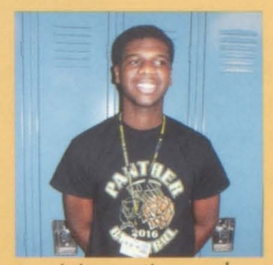
Michelle Beck, 11 & Trevor Losiniecki, 11

"I knew I had to ask her in a way that she would like. So I decided to use McDonald's sweet tea because she loves it. I got help from Rachel (Kruhaj, 11) because I knew she'd give me good ideas. I was really happy she said yes, even though I knew she would," said Losiniecki. "The way he asked me was super cute and I was so surprised. He was dropping hints all morning to me about it but I never caught on. When he finally did ask me, I got a million times more excited for the dance," said Beck.

Prom Weekend Plans

"For prom weekend, we went to Abbey's (Dobosz, 11) lake house in Angola, Wisconsin. We wanted to go out of town and have an adventurous weekend. We went boating, kayaking, and water skiing. I would do it again in a heart beat. My least favorite part had to be when we were on the boat and a bug splashed up from the water and bit me in the eye. I had to wear sunglasses for the rest of the trip to cover up my swollen eye. My favorite part was kayaking because I'm actually pretty good at it and I didn't fall in the water while I was doing it. This is one of my favorite high school memories I have. I can't wait until next year to go back and make even more with all my friends."

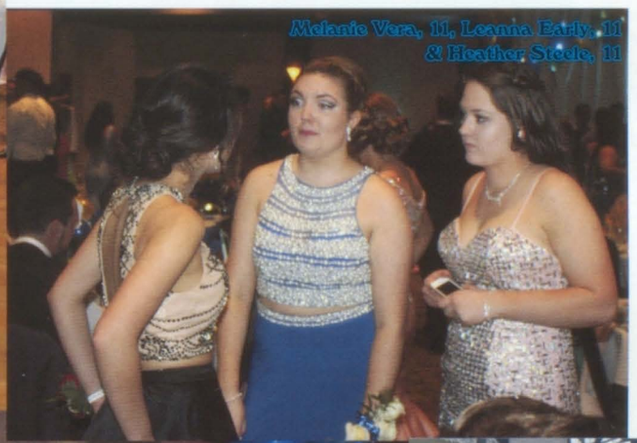
Erin Escorza, 11



"During prom weekend, my group stayed in town. On Saturday we went to the movies and saw the new *Captain America: Civil War* movie. I also chilled with my friends. The best part about the weekend is that it's like a mini vacation and prepares you for summer. I really liked my group because they definitely made the weekend a lot more interesting. I'm happy we stayed home because it is less stressful and you can always find things to do around here. My favorite part was just being able to hang out with my friends throughout Saturday and Sunday and not worrying about anything. I won't forget this weekend. Prom will be one of things I miss most next year."

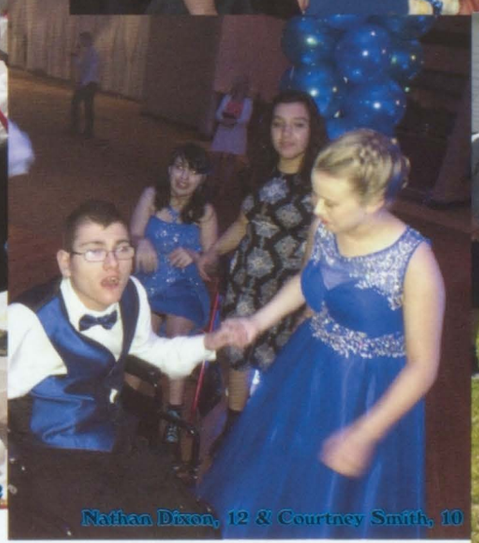
Kasey Payne, 12

Logan Perry, 12 & Brandon Collett, 12



Melanie Vera, 11, Leanna Early, 11 & Heather Steele, 11

Alicia James, 12 & Paige White,12



Nathan Dixon, 12 & Courtney Smith, 10

Prom Weekend

During the slow dance, senior Giovonnie Kemp dances with his date. "This prom was one of the best dances I've ever been to. The music was really good and everyone was always dancing. I'd do it again if I could," said Kemp.

Community

One town. One team. One dream. Griffith, Indiana is one of the smallest towns in the area. However, Griffith residents have a big heart, and know how to show their Panther spirit.

This year the Griffith community was faced with an unexpected event. The Griffith boy's basketball team was headed to the IHSAA basketball semi-state game in Lafayette, Indiana on March 19th. On their way, the team's bus was hit and flipped off the road into a ditch on I-65 near Demotte. The bus was crushed and landed upside down. Thankfully, there were no fatalities and, besides a few minor injuries, everyone was alive and well.

On March 20th, the Griffith Clergy Association hosted a prayer service at Central Park at 2:00 p.m. The community gathered to celebrate the miraculous outcome of the accident.

"We wanted to put some sort of prayer service or outreach event together for the community. Really to be thankful that no one was seriously injured and secondly to show our support for the community and that we do go further than the church walls and really do care about what goes on in the community," said Tim Powers, Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Griffith.

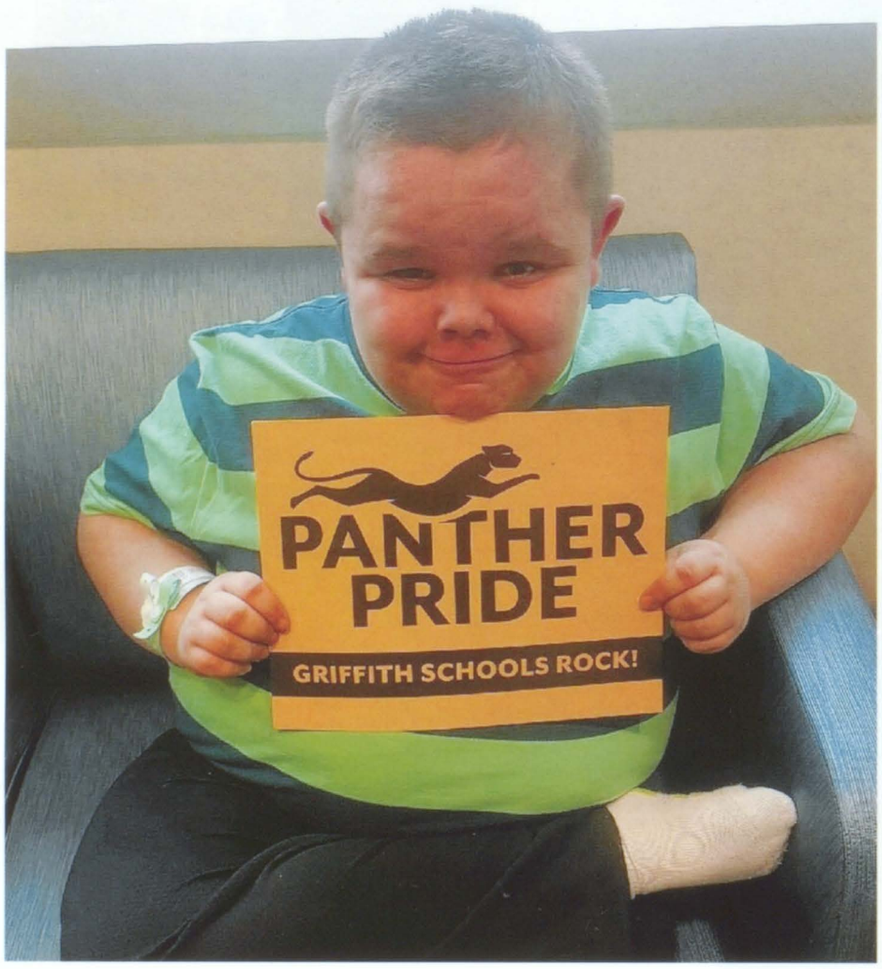
The prayer service started with the town council members and continued with readings of scripture and prayers from Clergy Association members. It was followed up by Dr. Peter Morikis, coach Gary Hayes, and some of the boys speaking. To close out the service, the crowd joined in the singing of Amazing Grace.

"I just want to thank the community and the students that came out that day for supporting and believing in us," said freshman Timothy Lawson.

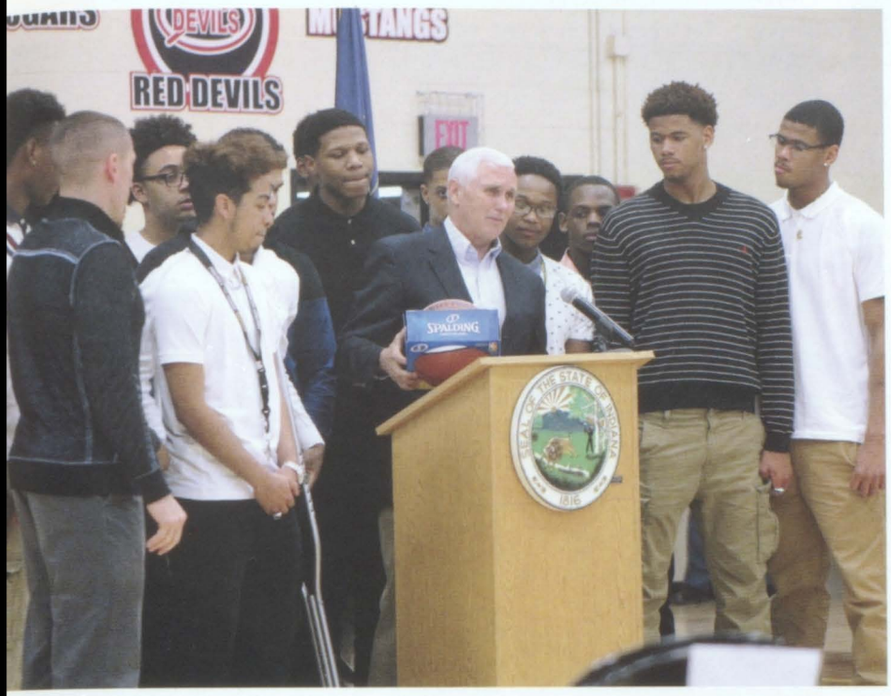
In addition to the prayer service, students gathered in the gym on the Monday after the accident where principal Brian Orkis, Hayes, Kay Orzechowicz, and the players took the floor and spoke to the student body, expressing their gratitude and experiences. Students and faculty helped pump up the boys for their appearance in the semi-state game that was played on March 23rd.

About one month after the semi-state game, Governor Mike Pence made an appearance at the school and offered his sincere congratulations on an outstanding recovery and the team's ability to never back down. He gave the team a basketball autographed by Larry Bird.

Griffith resident Blake Loudenber showed his support. "I am very close with the team so when I heard that they were in an accident, I was wondering if they were okay. I was able to visit some of the team and it made me feel better," said Loudenber.



Central Park filled with people who came out to support the basketball team. March 20th called for the entire community to show their support by gathering for an hour to spread their gratitude among the town and express thanks.



Receiving recognition from Governor Mike Pence, the boys gather in front of the school to reflect on this year's events. "This experience brought us closer together because we knew the crash could've killed us," said senior Isaiah Martinez.

The Cheerleaders performed at the semi-state pep rally and showed support to the team. "The pep rally for semi-state was an experience I will never forget. Everyone was in high spirits especially our cheer team," said sophomore Deleah Walker.

Panther Strong

The beginning of semi-state week began with anticipation. Students gathered together to show panther pride at the semi-state pep rally. Then the team suffered from an unexpected bus accident. Miraculously, the team only suffered from minor injuries. Town resident's gathered at Central Park to pray for the team's recovery and give thanks to the boys. On March 23rd, the boys headed back to Lafayette. Hundreds of supporters came to cheer on the team as they went up against Marian. The panthers gave it their all, but lost in a last-second point scored by Marian.

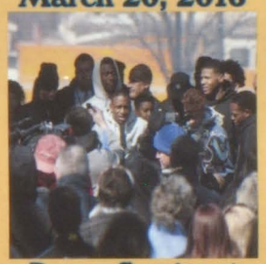
March 17, 2016

Semi-State Pep Rally

March 19, 2016

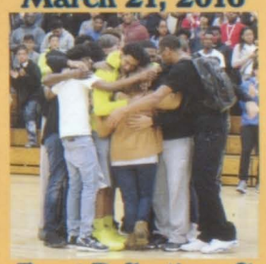
I-65 School Bus Accident

March 20, 2016



Prayer Service at Central Park

March 21, 2016



Event Reflections & Pride Gathering

March 23, 2016

Semi-State Game at Lafayette Jefferson

Drama Lovers

There were two popular plays that were performed in the school year of 2015-2016. *The Addams' Family* was the first big play of the year followed by *Footloose*. Each play took three to four months to rehearse lines, create set pieces, perfect face make-up, and experiment lights for each scene. The drama department rehearsed on weekends mainly from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. with short meetings throughout the week as well.

Many have said they made great new friends. Others said they joined drama so they could gain more experience to aid them in future theater careers. "When I first started being in charge of the drama department, there was a small number of people involved. Now the number has nearly tripled. It's nice to see how many people are interested and have joined the club. Everyone enjoys working together and participating in the plays," said Jenna Candiano, social studies.

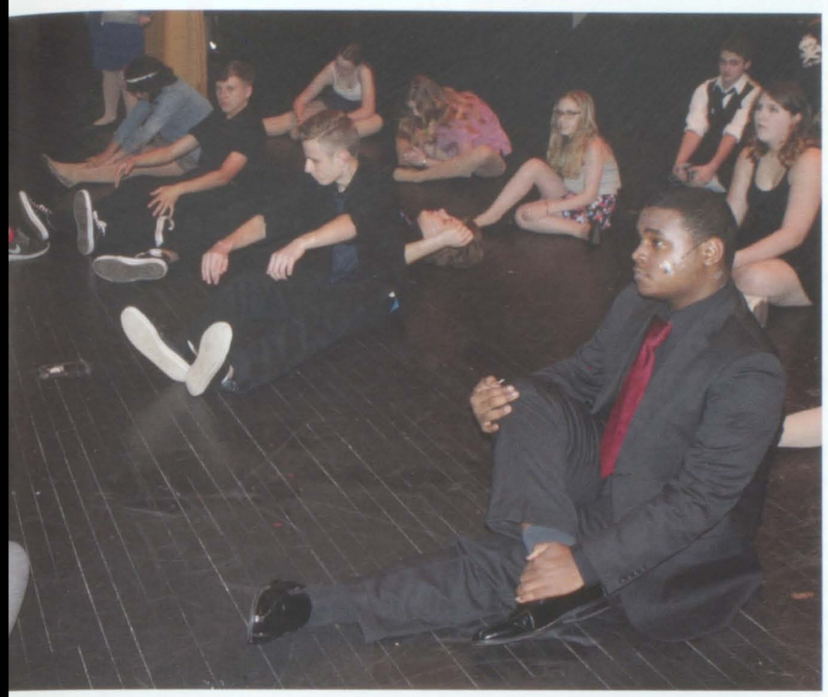
Drama has different positions. There is always a job for everyone. They have the make-up department who work on getting the actor's and actress's character make-up done. Before each play viewing, after the cast got dressed in their costumes, they would need the finishing touches. There are also people appointed to wardrobe, where they have to get each scene's costumes ready quickly. In between each scene when they go out to change the set, the cast is limited on time to get ready. With the help of the wardrobe department the cast was able to change by the time the next scene started.

A few days before the play was performed fully, the cast would put on a preview for the high/middle school and grade schools. This was a sneak peak of about 45 minutes of the play to give the audience a taste of the whole show. Dedication and hard work goes into drama for tech week. During that week students stayed in the auditorium from 3:30-9:30 everyday to prepare properly for the play. They were usually given time before rehearsal to finish any homework or studies.

Jim Graff was in charge of GLS, Griffith Light and Sound. He and his staff lit the stage, cued the music, and were responsible for other light/sound effects. He also bought the set materials with money out of his own pocket. Together Graff and Candiano, along with the rest of the department, were able to put on extravagant shows throughout the years.

As sophomore Jake Diamond hooks up the mic, sophomore Cameron Bobos prepares for his part in *Footloose*. "It was an amazing experience and I think we all did extremely well. The performance really came together," said Bobos.

Preparing for his performance, sophomore Gio Johnson gets his face make-up applied. "I love when I get ready for the plays, it makes it much easier to remember my lines when I feel like I'm the actual character," said Johnson.



As the cast does their stretches, they eagerly prepare for their upcoming performance of the spring musical. "The whole thing was exciting. It was a real treat being able to express myself through drama," said sophomore Justin Walton.

The cast of *The Addams' Family*, lock arms and bow to their audience after a productive viewing of the show. "When the play is over, you finally have a chance to breathe and relax, and watch everyone applaud for us," said junior Leanna Early.

The Life of Drama

Kyle McCarter, 10

"This was my first year of drama, and I worked mainly on constructing the set pieces for the stage. One of the reasons I joined drama was because of all the people I already knew that were in it. For the ideas of our second play, we all had a vote, and the idea of "Footloose" won. From that point on we rehearsed on weekends from 11 a.m-3 p.m. There was one quote that had grown on me from drama, "Drawn the curtain" was said greatly during rehearsals and the play itself. I have had a great time this past year in drama."

Corynn Kealey, 11

"I started Drama in ninth grade, where I acted but now I work backstage. I'm the third highest person for the stage crew. One of the best plays in my opinion was "Willy Wonka". It was disorganized but we still enjoyed making it. My favorite drama saying is when Mrs. Vehrs says, "to the top, to the top, to the top". I'm very excited for "Footloose". It will be very unique and calmed down, but a good change in drama. I want to be in drama until I graduate high school."

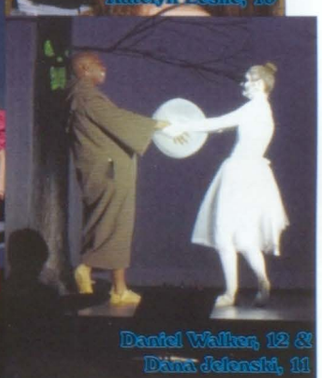
Amari Harris, 10

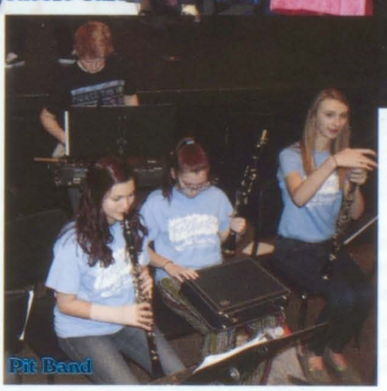
"I've been in Drama for two years now. I started to try something new and I ended up enjoying singing and dancing. I've gotten close to many people and have enjoyed meeting and making new friends. I was an ancestor in the "Addams' Family" musical and I mainly danced and didn't have many lines. My favorite line in drama was "Break a leg", as basic as that sounds. I am dedicated to drama so I don't do anything else really beside track. Both use up my time greatly. I will continue with drama in the near future."

Leah Vuckovich,10

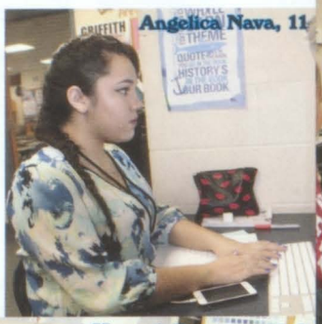
Katelyn Leslie, 10

Footloose Cast



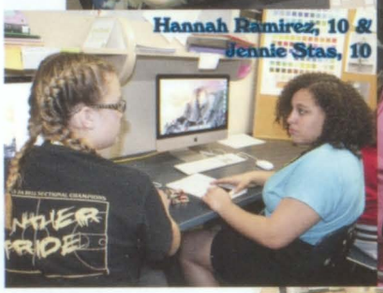
Daniel Walker, 12 &
Dana Jelenski, 11

Pit Band

"One of my favorite parts about newspaper is that at the end of the month I'm able to pass out the final copy of the work I've helped create," said freshman Maddie Nolan. This is Nolan's first year of being a part of the newspaper staff.

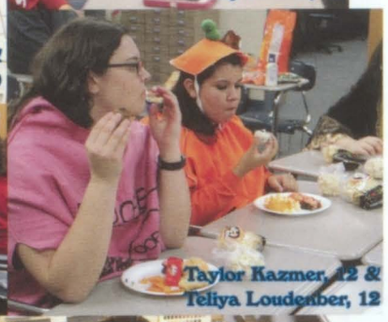


Angelica Nava, 11

Leandra Wimmer, 12 &
Lilly Jeffers, 11



Hannah Ramirez, 10 &
Jennie Stas, 10



Taylor Kazmer, 12 &
Teliya Loudenber, 12

Victoria Martinez, 9

While in newspaper, sophomore Giselle Valentin works on writing about her favorite topic, sports. "I enjoy writing the sports column for newspaper because I am able to voice my opinion about my favorite sports teams," said Valentin.

Celebrating her sixteenth birthday, sophomore Megan Wilson smiles brightly. "I knew that my birthday was going to be celebrated but I had no idea they would make such a big deal of it. I felt so honored to be on staff," said Wilson.

Word Up

Publications consists of yearbook, newspaper, and *The Edge*. Each year, students work vigorously to make a memorable, finished product. In the publication classes, students split into groups or work alone to complete their assigned deadline. Yearbook and newspaper are year long classes that students can enroll in after taking a semester of Journalism. *The Edge* is the high school magazine student aids independently work on.

This year, yearbook had the most students compared to past years. At the beginning of the second semester, the class doubled in size. "Having the bigger class was a huge advantage. Since all of the new students are underclassmen, in the upcoming years, they will be able to teach future underclassmen how to work the system," said junior Natalie Halley.

They worked on six deadlines this year that were divided into mini deadlines due at the end of each week. Since the class consisted of around 30 students, people got to choose partners for their deadlines. "I was glad I was able to work with a partner because I got to learn how to work the software," said freshman Cody Wilkins.

On the other hand, newspaper had ten issues a year with page deadlines and story deadlines. Every month a new issue of the newspaper came out. "My favorite part about newspaper was getting out of class to pass out newspapers with my friends," said freshman Jordan Langel.

Newspaper consisted of around 20 students who each got their own story. The students got to choose what they wanted to write about. In the newspaper the different topics are: the news page, the opinion page, the entertainment page, the feature page, and the sports page. "I wrote for the opinion page and my favorite part about it was that I got to voice my own opinion while in other stories you aren't able to do that," said freshman Anabel Castellanos.

The Edge is a high school magazine that comes out every quarter. It's not a class, so students must use their own time to work on it. Topics included in *The Edge* are; sports, fashion, movie, music, and book reviews, horoscopes, and fun facts. "I have been working on *The Edge* for two years. Being part of *The Edge* was an advantage because I got to choose the layout and what goes in the magazine," said senior editor Riley Hendron.

Yearbook vs. Newspaper

"This is my very first year in yearbook and I enjoy the class very much. Although there is a lot of effort and time put into the making of the yearbook, it is something that you will always remember, unlike a newspaper. In yearbook, we have the whole year to create the final copy, opposed to issuing a deadline every month. You're able to have a larger imagination with designing the yearbook."

Ashley Trice, 9

"I have been in newspaper for about three years and it is much better than yearbook. The atmosphere is very clean and the people in it are very inviting and friendly. We write about the things that people actually want to read and we write stories based on our passions. We get a grade for writing about what we love. The people you work with make the class so much more worthwhile."

Trevor Sheffield, 11

"Click!", goes the camera as junior Christine Morikis captures the perfect photo. "I have been a photographer for one year and my favorite things to photograph are sports pictures beacause there is more action," said Morikis.

Brain Power

After months of practices, on April 19th, six academic teams came together to compete at Merrillville High School to show what they had learned over the months. The teams received shirts that had the five different team names on them and said "Griffith" on the front. The five teams were math, English, history, fine arts, science, and interdisciplinary. The math team was lead by Christine Chidichimo and the history team was directed by Jim Pickett. English team was managed by Kristina Collard and science was managed by Dom Wittemore. Wittemore's team studied plane aerodynamics such as the direction, parts of the plane, and they also studied chemical reactions. Pickett's team studied the history of Indiana, governors, and important people who had made history in Indiana. The math team practiced mostly Calculus, and history studied "Hoosier Heritage History", the English team read "The Magnificent Ambersons", short stories by Kurt Vonnegut, and poems by James Whitcomb Riley. These poems included similes, metaphors and personification and usually dated back from the past.

Almost all of the academic teams had received ribbons based upon their performances. The science, math, interdisciplinary and English teams placed first in their division. The fine arts team placed second in their division.

As the academic clubs prepared for their competition another group prepared to go to regionals named DECA. DECA is a business and marketing club that prepared kids to engage in learning what career path they would have liked to go down The club was sponsored by Cherisse Louderman. Louderman, whom had a master's degree in business, an undergraduate in marketing, and a bachelor's in She had been teaching at the high-school level for three years and the college level for nine years.

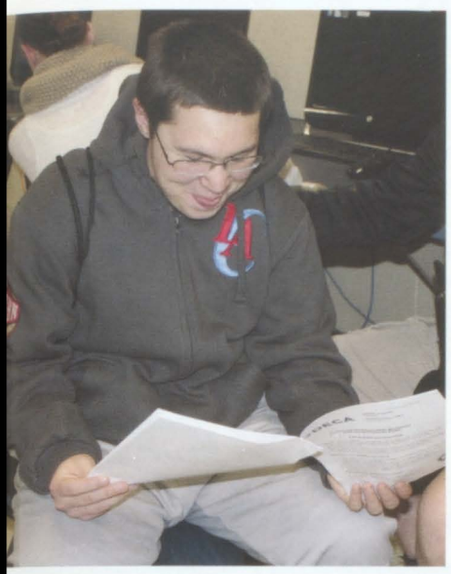
"My favorite part of DECA is that it has a great group of students whom are dedicated to the program. Their enthusiasm and willingness to do well in competition makes being a sponsor so enjoyable," said Louderman.

There were eleven students who qualified for state. These students ranged from ninth grade to seniors. They promoted other clubs to let students think about making themselves known and experiencing life in the business world.

At the start of the English round of the Academic Super-bowl, junior Abbey Dobosz passes out pencils. "I love participating with my team and in interdisciplinary at the competition. Everyone did really well after all of their work," said Dobosz.

Promoting DECA and other clubs junior Trevor Losiniecki, seniors Amir Wright and Daniel Walker and junior Hunter Conaghan walk around Griffith. "I enjoy DECA because, it let's me explore the business world," said Conaghan.

In Cherisse Louderman's room, junior Steven Esquivel is enjoying himself while preparing for the DECA competition. "I joined DECA, because I like marketing and business and really wanted to go to state in DECA," said Esquivel.



Fine Arts Academic Superbowl

Row 1: Gage Corona, Arlynne Corona, Hannah Ramirez

Math Academic Superbowl

Row 1: Luke Reid, Bridget Beck, Tommy Biancardi, Michelle Beck, Christine Chicichimo, Kevin Matson

Why I Joined?

"I joined because I'd rather learn outside of the classroom. I was on the math and history teams. My favorite moment was at the competition when we answered a question right Tommy "Dabbed", every time and it was just hilarious."
Kacie Kruhaj, 10

"I was on the math team. Competing was my favorite part of the entire experience; it was such a thrilling experience. I was really glad I joined, because I love math, and Miss Chidichimo. We studied Calculus, Geometry and Algebra II."
Michelle Beck, 11

I've been on the science team since the 7th grade. It always gives me great joy to come back every year and compete with the team. I love Mr. Wittemore and learning about biology, chemistry and airplanes."
Jamie Thomas, 12

Science Academic Superbowl

Row 1: Calvin Robertson, Kevin Matson, Jamie Thomas

History Academic Superbowl

Row 1: Luke Reid, Calvin Robertson, Kacie Kruhaj

English Academic Superbowl

Row 1: Tiffany Novak, Abbey Dobosz, Dara Meece, Alexis Metcalf

DECA

Row 1: Anthony Quintero, Dana Jelenski, Zac Hilgeman, Daniel Walker, Matthew McInerney, Amir Wright, Hunter Conaghan
Row 2: Keith Hernandez, Jacob Damski, Denny Colomes, Laura Reid, Bridget Beck, Daniella Ayala, Eva Solis, Jazmin Lopez, Karol Ames, Jacob Rothchild, Alec Pena
Row 3: Michelle Beck, Sean Bailey, Shawn Falstrom, Corynn Kealey, Trevor Losiniecki, Noah Mitcheltree, Stevie Esquivel, Jeremiah Reitz, Bella Maglish, Storm Fleming, Kayla Schramm
Row 4: Sam Stassin, Jordan Galindo, Sammy Issa, Ali Mroueh, Blake Megquier, Collin Sutton, Logan Perry, Josh Zoran, Zach Thomas, Adrian Lopez

Best Buddies

Row 1: Claire Guernsey, Melissa Diekelmann, Erica Ward, Skylar Davenport, Willa Kim, Laura Reid, Ali Schoon, Jennifer Kocon, Nathan Dixon
Row 2: Lilyana Salazar, Hannah Villa, Michelle Beck, Delaina Schrock, Lauren Kovacic, Kristee Brown, Caiya Wright, Andrea Aguilar, Amanda Madison
Row 3: Rachel Deck, Gabby Hamm, Nathan Janik, Stephaine Cordova, Zoe Dieguez, Brandon Capshaw, Marissa Perez, Jose Baldauf, Treon Davis, Darius Cheairs
Row 4: MaKayla Haught, Nichalas Dieguez, Josh Bacon, Courtney Smith, Daniella Ayala, Nick George, Deleah Walker, Micheal Lopez, Jorge Saucedo, Brett Facault
Row 5: Rachel Kruhaj, Ryan Balker, Tommy Biancardi, Michael Worosz, Kelsy Lopez, Devin Brown, Brian Narug, Jacob George

One In a Million

Jacob George, 12 & Daniel Walker, 12

"Jacob and I enjoy hanging out at the best buddy events. Outside of school Jacob really enjoys going to the fairs. He is particularly excited to go to the Lake County fair this summer. He always brings up how he wants to ride the full tilt and I plan on going with him to the fair to make sure that happens. Jacob also enjoys going to the theater and seeing action movies. He is a very funny person and I'm glad he's my buddy."

Melanie Turner, 12 & Darius Cheairs, 9

"Normally I wouldn't join any clubs, but I am so grateful that I decided to join this one. Best Buddies has impacted my life in so many ways. I absolutely love my buddy Darius and I enjoy hanging out with him. We do all kinds of stuff. We have gone bowling, out to eat, and watched movies at home. No matter what we do we always know how to have a good time. It's going to be so hard when it comes time to graduate."

Laura Reid, 10 & Andrea Aguilar, 12

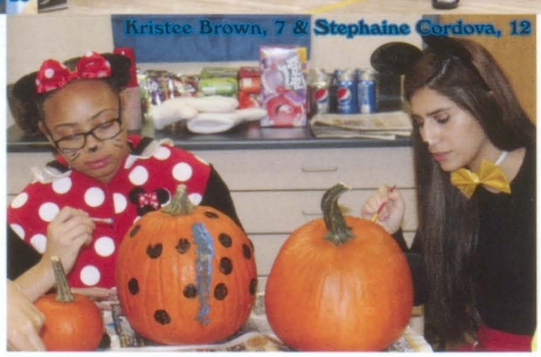
"The moment I met Andrea I knew that I wanted to be her buddy. When I was interviewed for my buddy pair I instantly said that I wanted Andrea because she is such a caring and great person to be around and I figured we would get along well. Andrea is a senior and will be graduating but I will never forget the memories we shared. She will never know how much she has touched my life and how much I love her."

Makayla Haught, 7 & Brandon Capshaw, 7

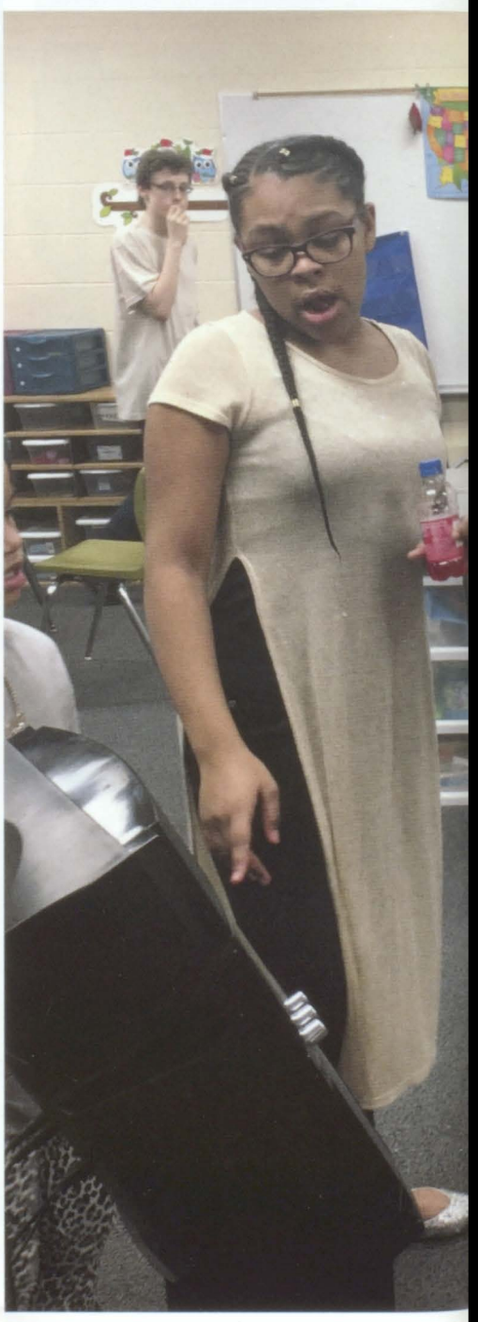
Hannah Villa, 12

Rachel Kruhaj, 11 & Zachery Raglin, 10

Wheelchair Basketball Game



Kristee Brown, 7 & Stephaine Cordova, 12



Best Buddies

Best Buddies was a new program to Griffith this past year and it spread throughout all 50 states and over 50 countries. The program is student lead by the president and officers. The officers were sophomore Erica Ward (president), sophomore Laura Reid (vice president), sophomore Ali Schoon (treasurer), and sophomore Skylar Davenport (secretary). The sponsors are as follows: special education teachers Melissa Diekelmann and Amanda Madison, also assisting them was nurse Jennifer Kocon.

During the summer of 2015, Ward and Diekelmann attended the leadership conference at IU Bloomington where they learned how to make their first year successful. They received several tips from people all over the world about their experiences from the program.

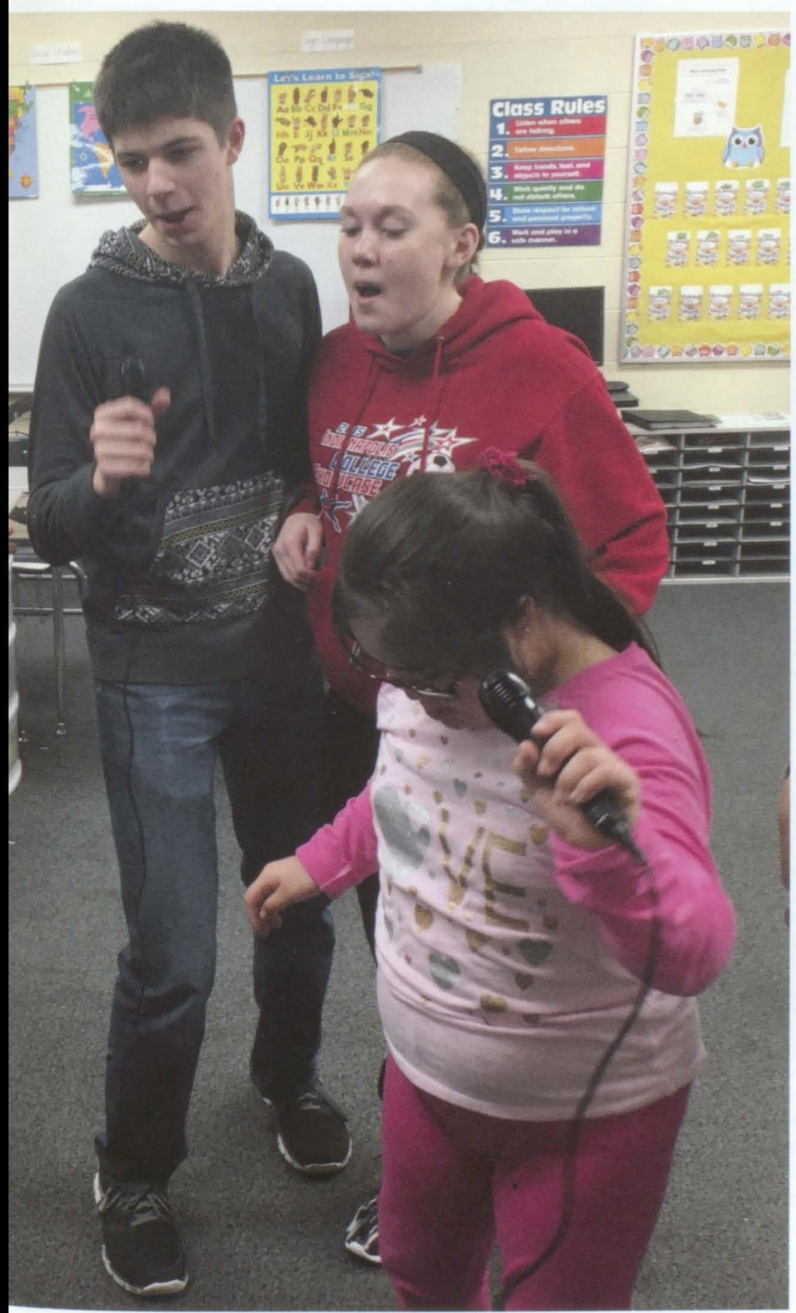
An application was required to be filled out by every person that wanted to be part of the club. The students also had an option to be an associative member. An associate member was allowed to come to all events, but did not have an assigned buddy. Then based on interests, the matches were made for the buddies. The year began with a parent meeting and a match party that helped everyone get to know their buddy. They figured out ways to communicate throughout the year.

In order for the club to have their monthly activities, many fundraisers had to take place. The officers and many members took turns selling smens, smencils, and suckers at lunch as a fundraiser. Also, footprints were sold for people to write their names on and help support the Friendship Walk that occurred on May 14, 2016 inside Crown Point High School's gym.

Every month there was an activity planned for the entire chapter to participate in. Some of the activities consisted of canvas painting, movie nights, pajama parties, game day, and holiday parties. Usually each member was asked to bring $5 to help pay for the food and beverages that were provided at each gathering.

At the end of every month, the buddy was required to go onto the Best Buddies website and fill out a friendship update which showed how many times the buddy and peer buddy hung out and also how many times communication occurred between the two.

"This club is such a heart warming and awesome thing that was brought to Griffith," said Kocon.



Singing karaoke, junior Michelle Beck and senior Tommy Biancardi play the Wii with Jessica Tellez, a Best Buddies member. "This club helps get the kids to step out of their comfort zone and enjoy themselves as much as possible," said Beck.

With open arms, freshman Ryan Bakker grabs the warm-up shirt from senior Martin Schiele before a basketball game. "I felt it was only right to give Ryan my warm-up because he took the time to come watch the team play," said Schiele.

Scholar Society

National Honor Society (NHS) is a highly respected academic club at Griffith High School. Members are expected to exhibit service, leadership, character, and citizenship skills. In order to be eligible for induction, a student must go through a three-step application process. The first qualifying step is having at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA after two years of high school. Once the first step is passed, students received an application that will list all activities they have participated in. The application must have been turned in on time in order to qualify for the third step in the induction process. For each activity fulfilled, the students received an amount of points depending on their participation. Students with a high amount of points will be inducted to National Honor Society. Sophomores and juniors are inducted in the spring in order to be able to be a part of the club in their junior or senior year.

Cindy Leber, data coach, and Sasho Dojcinovski, guidance, were the new sponsors of NHS for 2016. Changes were made to the rules about volunteering hours. Seniors were required to have 22 service hours, while juniors needed 30 service hours in order to receive a tassel on their graduation hat. Last year, only five hours were able to be completed outside of the school. This year, students were given the opportunity to complete as many outside hours as they wish. "I prefer being able to get more hours on our own because there are opportunities everywhere so it gives the chance to get all of their hours needed," said junior Leanna Early.

Members of the club were required to participate in most of the service events. NHS had their annual service project where students had to help clean up Central Park as well as painting flowers seen all around the town. Besides participating in the service project, members tutored many other students all year long. The students grades ranged from 6th graders to high schoolers.

NHS members had multiple fundraisers this year. The first fundraiser was held in the winter and involved selling World's Finest Chocolate Bars. Each member was required to sell at least one box of the Fannie May candy. In the spring, a fundraiser was held at Panda Express. Twenty percent of the money earned at the fast- food restaurant was given to NHS to help for the Top Ten dinner held on May 2nd.

Helping Others

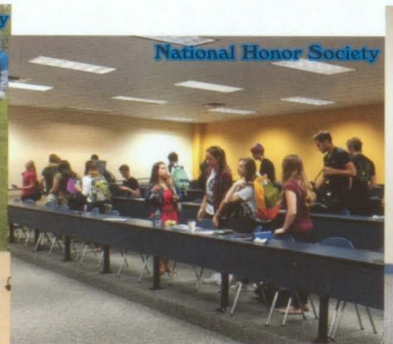
Denny Colomes, 11

Colomes has completed some of his volunteer hours through NHS. "I thought it was pretty cool that we could get our service hours done outside of school," said Colomes. He has a job at Zuni's in Highland which helped him be able to make pizzas for the Spaghetti Dinner. Colomes volunteered at Munster Med- Inn during the winter. He helped set up tables for a Christmas event. At the retirement home he was able to see Christmas carolers. "I enjoyed volunteering at the retirement home and I plan on going back soon," said Colomes. He helped clean up Central Park for the annual NHS service project on May 14th. "It was nice being able to help clean up the park because it's the main part of Griffith," said Colomes.

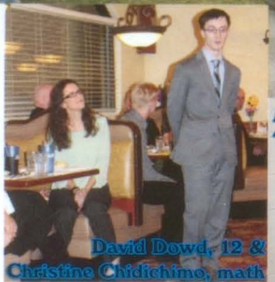
Chyna Gerioff- Rex, 11

Rex participated in many of the volunteering activities through National Honor Society. She rang the jingle bells during Christmas time in front of Strack & Van Til and worked the Easter Breakfast for the Chambers of Commerce dressed as a bunny. "It was really cold when I was out there. The funniest part was when my partner, Megan, dropped the bell and all of the customers laughed," said Rex. Outside of NHS, Rex has worked stands for clubs that she has participated in for the high school. She also works the swimming camps whenever they are held. "I was so shocked to hear that we were able to get our volunteering hours outside of school because I can easily get hours done," said Rex.

Community Clean Up Day


National Honor Society

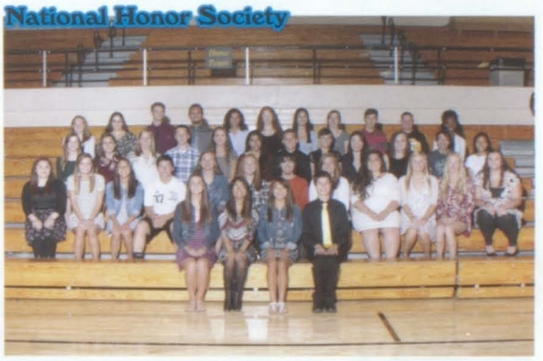
Sasho Dojcinovski & Cindy Leber


David Dowd, 12 & Christine Chidichimo, math

Marissa Perez, 12 & Tommy Biancardi, 12

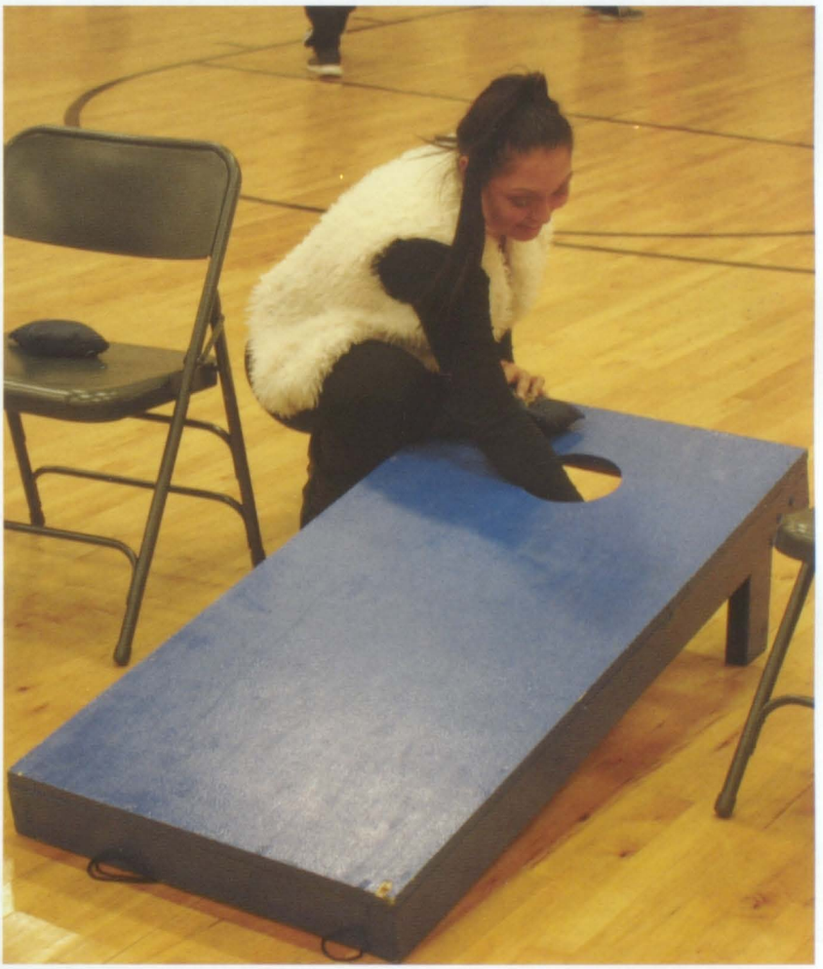
On February 19th, ten students walked into the library to take their top ten photos for the Wall of Honors. "It was awesome to be able to get out of class and to be recognized for getting in the top ten for academics," said senior Tiffany Novak.

National Honor Society



Row 1: Kersten Collins, Diane Torres, Marissa Perez, Tommy Biancardi
Row 2: Marissa Mendoza, Victoria Holtzer, Lilyana Salazar, Denny Colomes, Rachel Kruhaj, Bridget Beck, Kevin Matson, Alyssa Skertich, Alex Colomes, Lauren Kovacic, Morgan Taylor, Taylor Kazmer
Row 3: Abbey Dobosz, Tiffany Novak, Chyna Gerloff-Rex, Luke Reid, Lily Maravilla, Kelsy Lopez, Jacob Adams, Sylvie Dowd, Leanna Early, Jillian Beaupain, Josh Cavazos, Alex Leon
Row 4: Michelle Beck, Riley Hendron, Scott Nolan, Jared Lipski, Bella Maglish, Dara Meece, Megan Madrigal, Dana Jelenski, Adrian Lopez, Carson Grin, Elana Jones

"I enjoyed putting the ribbons all over the school even though I kept droppng the roll," said junior Megan Madrigal. Cindy Leber, data coach, supervises Madrigal stringing the orange ribbon through the stairs railing for Orange Ribbon Week.



Picking up a bean bag, senior Lauren Vieyra prepares the game for a new child to play at the Beiriger Fun Fair held on April 8th. "It was awesome seeing the kids enjoy the games as much as I did when I was younger," said Vieyra.

Getting Artsy

The creative clubs offered to students to join gave artistic kids the opportunity to show their skills in different forms of art. Cherisse Louderman, business, is the advisor of the poetry club. It had eight members. At their meetings, the students learned about different types of poetry, meter, and rhyme patterns.

"I've always enjoyed writing poetry. I'm glad that this club formed this year and I got to work on my skills as a poet," said senior Darail Williams.

Another creative club that was offered was Griffith Lights and Sound, advised by Jim Graff, art. At the beginning of the school year, Graff showed the interested students how to work the sound booth and the lights in the light room. GLS club members volunteered their time to help on drama productions, choir concerts, talent shows, coffee nights, and other events.

"I love being in control of the lighting for the performances. It is not an easy job, but once you get the hang of it, you get to enjoy it," said junior Amber Grubish.

Margaret Rivera, art, was the sponsor for the Art Club. At the meetings, members broadened their artistic horizons farther than they could in an art class offered by the school.

"We spent a lot of time talking about the history of art. We based our projects on the seasons, like during February we made Valentine's Day cards out of watercolors. We also had an art club party where we did a huge group project. Everyone in the club got along well, so having to do a group project was successful," said sophomore Yamia Smith.

The mural that was handcrafted using old t-shirts by the students in the art club was hung in the cafeteria over winter break. It was made by Margaret Rivera and a small amount of students in the art club.

During the school year, Booster Club did many activities, including decorating the halls for homecoming, making posters for athletes' lockers, and hosting a prom fashion show.

"We decorated lockers for every athlete during the fall, winter, and spring. We also made treat bags for the teams. It was a lot of work, but it was worth it. Another thing that we did was we got together was cheered for the Robotics team when they advanced to the state championship," said sophomore Mikaela Dragus.

Creative Differences

"I joined poetry club this year because it is my favorite form of art and it's a very therapeutic way to get your feelings out. Instead of bottling up all of your thoughts you can put them on paper for others to read. I love poetry because it can be very deep and the best part is the similes and metaphors in the rhymes. Seeing how creatively the author can compare two totally different things and find the similarities in them is beautiful. Writing poems makes me feel a lot better about my thoughts and feelings."

RJ Martin, 9

"Joining art club was such a good decision for me because I love to draw and Ms. Rivera has helped me better my skills by a long shot. I enjoy spending my time drawing and painting so this club is perfect for me. This form of art can be difficult because some people just aren't naturally artistic, but I try very hard to let my creativity flow through painting. I really want to learn to paint more efficiently and be able to do different styles of painting. My favorite style of painting is still life, so that's what I'm focusing on."

Anabel Castellanos, 9

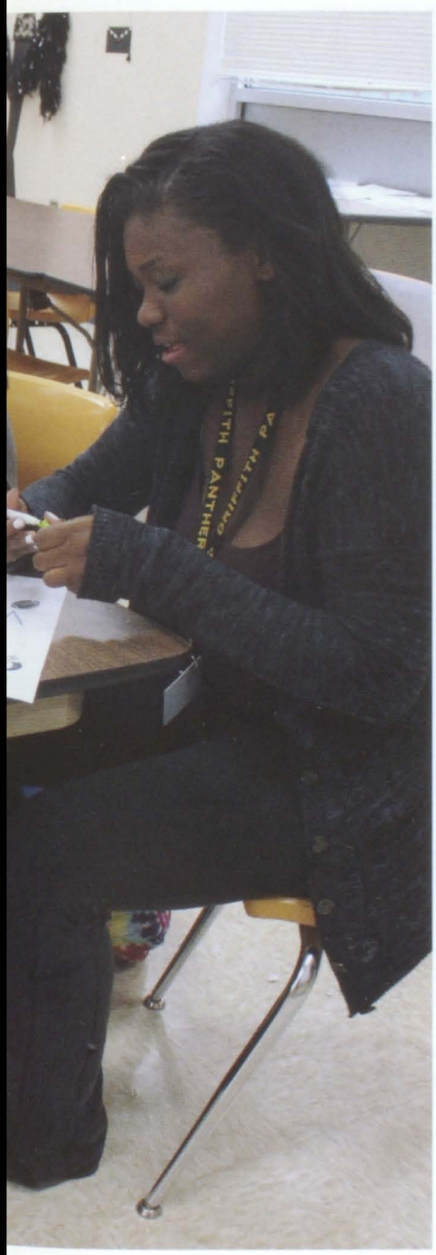
"GLS stands for Griffith Lights and Sound and we take care of lighting and the sound systems for productions such as the drama musicals, choir concerts, coffee night, and things like that. Learning how to control the lights was easy, but learning how to work the sound booth was challenging. It's a different style of creativity because you don't want to just point the light onto the stage, you have to write a plan for spotlights and when to turn them on. For sound, you have to know who's microphone to turn on at what time."

Gabby Quintana, 10

Every year, Booster Club decorates posters to tape onto the lockers of athletes. "I wanted to be apart of decorating the school and the halls. I made booster club one of my main priorities this year and I enjoy it," said junior Antonia Williams.

Focused on her work, junior Cassie Metz knits a panel for a blanket she was working on. "I enjoy every aspect of art, especially knitting. Joining this club had a great impact on me, because other people had the same views on art," said Metz.

Sitting in the sound booth, sophomore Jake Diamond practices cues for the spring musical *Footloose*. "I'm very ecstatic about working the sound booth for the musical. I also get to do lights, but working the mics is my favorite part," said Diamond.



Poetry Club

Row 1: Jessica Diaz, Emily Gonzales, Giovante Johnson

Art Club

Row 1: Megan Wilson, Kylee Taylor, Sarah Thomas, Julian Dejesos, Anabel Castellanos
Row 2: Kayla Schramm, Liana Boulles, Courtney Smith, Yamia Smith, Gabby Quintana, Emily Gonzales
Row 3: Andrew Bowman, Bella Maglish, Dana Jelenski, Collin Meadows, Cassandra Barnaby

Booster Club

Row 1: Brooke Rassel, Sabrina Garcia, Mikaela Dragus, Alexis Engle, Merry Galindo, Deleah Walker, Alex Leon, Marissa Mendoza, Camryn Linders, Victoria Burgess-Giles
Row 2: Rachel Deck, Gabby Hamm, Rebecca Flores, Teliya Loudenber, Renee Adams, Nikki Hamm, Tatum Josephson, Kaylyn Perez, Leandra Wimmer
Row 3: Kaelynn Church, Laura Reid, Jazmin Lopez, Ali Schoon, Christine Morikis, Alex Longoria, Rachel Adams, Abbey Dobosz, Julianne Long, Alexis Gardner, Dynahstee Moore
Row 4: Antonia Williams, Taylor Kazmer, Jillian Beaupain, Kersten Collins, Lily Maravilla, Paige Zoran, Leyah Hodge, Riley Hendron, Lauren Vieyra, Emily Gonzales

GLS

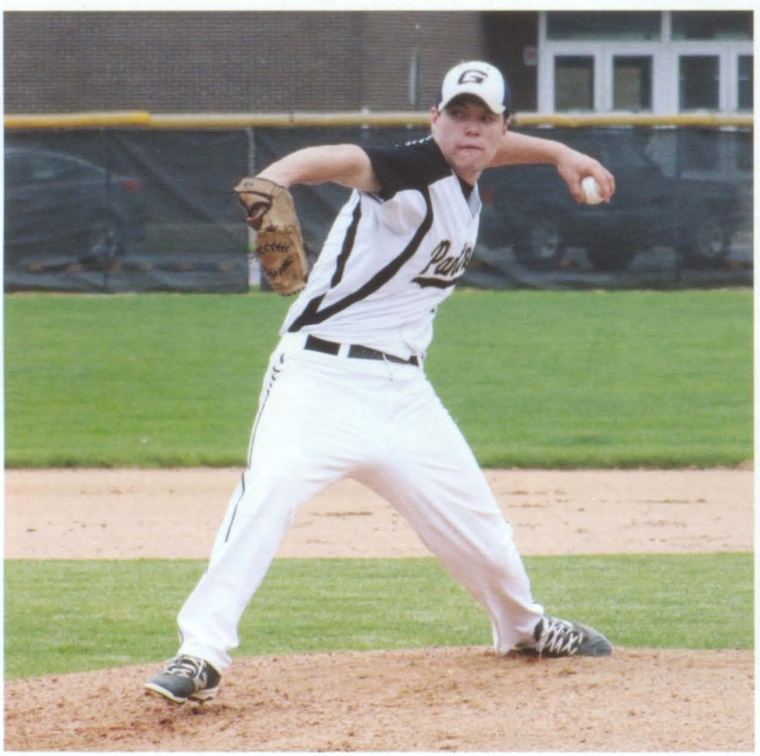
Row 1: Gabby Quintana, Lauren Kovacic, Courtney Smith, Angelica Meyer
Row 2: Corynn Kealey, Storm Fleming, Laura Reid, Cameron Bobos, Samantha Pelot
Row 3: Antonia Williams, Collin Meadows, Emily Gonzales, Jim Graff

Varsity

Row 1: Denny Colomes, Gabe Pulido, Johnny Maynard, Alec Seberger, Amir Wright, Josh Miller, Jacob Adams, Sean Bailey, Cole Cervantes, Elias Caraballo
Row 2: Troy Cullen, Charles Flores, Joey Martoccio, Kody Hoese, Jared Lipski, Anthony Quintero, Julian Rutherford, Kyle Iwinski

Junior Varsity

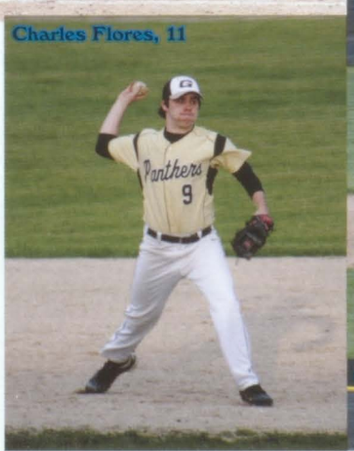
Row 1: Anson Wright, Andrew Braddy, Michael Kantor, Cody Wilkins, John Lawson, Christian Rivera
Row 2: Eddie Hintz, Jake Collins, Xaiver Romero, Jeff Kawa, Drew Davenport, Aaron Gonzalez, Isaiah Ramirez



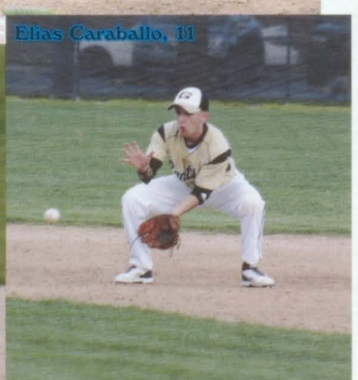
As senior Amir Wright steps up to the plate, he crushes the ball over the pitcher's head to help cut the deficit against Munster. "I was looking for a fastball and I got one right at the heart of the plate and I drove it up the middle," said Wright.

Josh Miller, 11

Alec Seberger, 11



Charles Flores, 11



Elias Caraballo, 11

Jacob Adams, 12

Pitching in sectionals, senior Troy Cullen looks to give a quality performance to help his team advance. "Starting pitching a game is something that I have been doing for a long time. I wanted a good outing during the post season," said Cullen.

It's Time

On March 14th and 15th, the coaches started to gather their 2016 baseball teams. The day after tryouts, the players best suited for the team started practicing for both the junior varsity and varsity teams.

The coaches focused mainly on defense this year because they believed in the team's potential to score runs. Various drills were executed in practice in order to perfect each player's ability when playing the field.

"Defense wins games," said coach Brian Jennings.

Also during the practices, the team focused a lot on bunting, two strike approaches at the plate, and driving the ball to the opposite field.

The four opening games increased the Panther's momentum with high scoring wins and team collaboration.

"We started off slower than expected, but we started to play better and piece together some wins to improve our record," said junior Joey Martoccio.

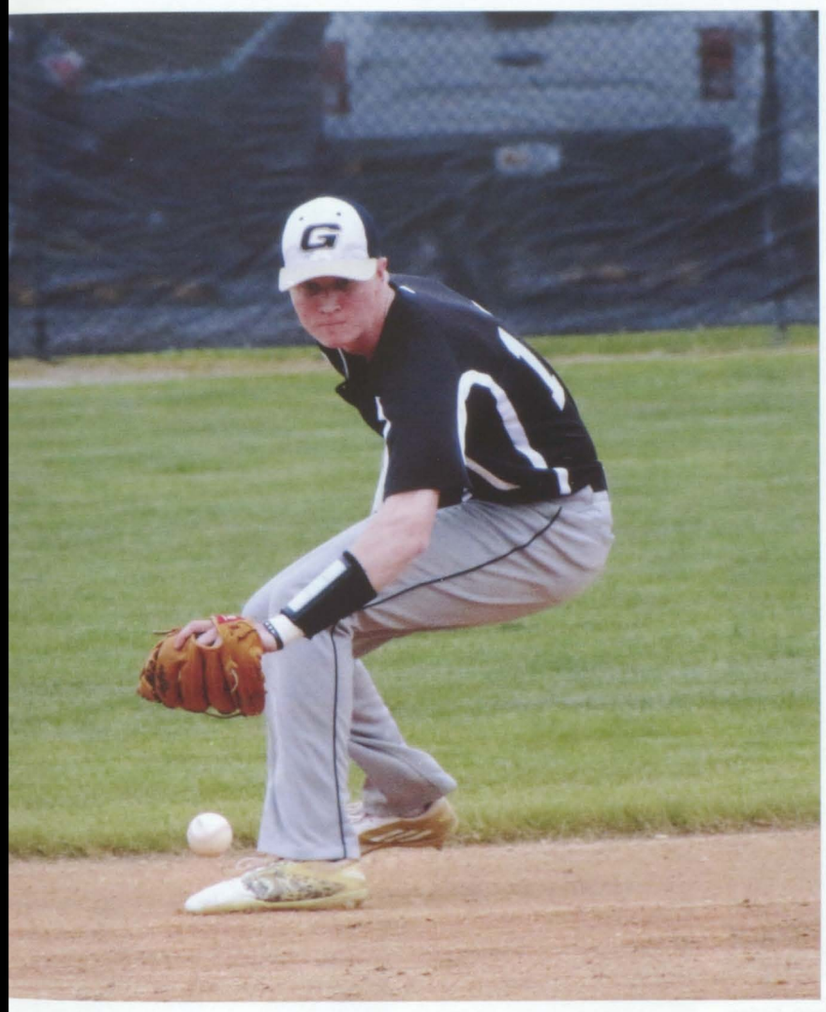
During the middle of the season, freshman Gabe Pulido came down with a health issue and had to miss all of the regular season. In support of their teammate, the junior varsity and varsity teams got stickers that had number 13 on them to honor Pulido. Many placed the stickers on their helmets.

"The stickers were very nice and thoughtful. I really appreciate it and its awesome to know that I have people that care," said Pulido.

The Panthers never stopped fighting. As sectionals started approaching, they began to work harder and wanted to accomplish remarkable feats in the post season. Each and every one of them had one goal in mind and that was to go to state. As they put in all of that work, the Panthers started to focus on what they had in mind.

Sectionals took place at the Griffith fields starting on May 25, 2016. For the first game, the Panthers faced Hammond High. They defeated them by fifteen runs and moved on to win against Gavit. They took down Clark in the sectional championship. "It felt great to win my fourth sectional in a row," said senior Anthony Quintero.

Regionals was on June 4, 2016 at Griffith. The Panthers faced Mishawaka Marian. Scoring two in the first inning and then two more throughout the game lead to a 4-1 win. The regional championship was on June 6th. Putting up a fight, the Panthers lost to Western 4-10.



As the short stop looks to make a play, senior Kody Hoese helps his pitcher get out of the inning. "It's my job to make every possible play to help out my pitcher. I've always been good at back handing the ball so it was a routine play," said Hoese.

Opponent:	Score:
Calumet	**17-0**
Kankakee Valley	**11-0**
Kankakee Valley	**11-1**
Valparaiso	**7-6**
Andrean	6-10
Andrean	0-6
Mishawaka	**13-7**
Mishawaka	**18-1**
Highland	0-3
Highland	1-5
Munster	0-3
Munster	0-4
New Prairie	**13-2**
East Chicago	**10-0**
Hanover Central	**7-0**
Hobart	3-10
Hobart	1-11
Lowell	6-8
Lowell	0-2
Washington Township	**12-2**
Whiting	**25-2**
South Bend Adams	**18-9**
Gavit	**10-2**
Sectionals:	
Hammond High	**15-0**
Gavit	**6-2**
Clark	**13-0**
Regionals:	
Mishawaka Marian	**4-1**
Western	4-10

Final Record:

17-11

Diamond Divas

This year's softball team had the largest amount of girls tryout compared to past year's. Varsity and junior varsity's teams had an abundance of girls, so unlike last year, there was no worry about a shortage of players on each team.

"It's nice that there were so many girls this year, so that in the future years the program will continue to thrive," said Kevin Brackett, varsity coach.

Conditioning started very early this year, beginning in September and going through March, with a month break in December. Something new this year was the September outdoor conditioning practices. Girls were able to work on their skills and scrimmage one another. In October, once the weather got cooler, conditioning was moved indoors to the fieldhouse. Tryouts were held March 7th, 8th and 9th from 7-9 p.m. indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. This was the first year tryouts were partially held outdoors, and on the turf football field.

"I liked having tryouts outside because we weren't crammed in a small space in the field house," said freshman Kamryn Pulliam.

There were also brand new varsity uniforms. The team was able to raise enough money to buy home and away uniforms.

"Getting the new jerseys made us look much more professional. I think wearing the uniforms makes teams intimidated by us," said junior Kasey Tinsley.

The season started out gloomy with a majority of the games being canceled because of the terrible weather conditions. Once the weather brightened up, the girls were more than anxious to play their first game of the year.

"I was really anxious to start the season but waiting for the weather to get better got me even more impatient to play my final year of high school softball," said junior Alexis Ingle.

The Panthers started off sectionals with a bang. Winning their fifth consecutive sectional championship, they defeated Gavit 5-2. The girls then went on to take down Highland. They battled a hard nine innings against the Trojans, which paid off.

"When I made the winning hit for my team, I felt a huge weight lifted off of my shoulders," said freshman Jessica Terzarial.

During a time out, head coach Don Bence calls his offensive players over to discuss the future play. "Whenever I'm in a huddle I try to think about what I can do to pick my team up and help us as best I can to win," said senior Sidney Hero.

As junior Sabrina Dodson began her windup, her focus was on striking the batter out. "My favorite part about being a pitcher is how I am the center of attention. The feeling I get when I strike someone out is unbelievable," said Dodson.

Alex Colomes, 12

Morgan Taylor, 12

Tatyana Cima De Villa, 11

Kailey Shepard, 12

Ale Albanese, 11

Varsity

Row 1: Ale Albanese, Brooklyn Richardson, Morgan Taylor, Sidney Hero, Kailey Shepard, Alexis Ingle
Row 2: Courtney Tinsley, Don Bence, Alex Colomes, Ali Schoon, Jessica Terzarial, Sabrina Dodson, Kasey Tinsley, Kevin Brackett, Marris Mihalcik

Junior Varsity

Row 1: Jessica Lopez, Rhiannon Banks, Trinity Page, Grace Opinker, Kamryn Pulliam, Mariah Huesken, Vanessa Pena
Row 2: Kylie Maloney, Stephanie Bradner, Vanessa Bullion, Avery Seberger, Morgan Willis, Haley Dixon, Mary Lesko, Camryn Sinars, Angel Meyer, Steve Moss

Opponent:	Score:
Merrillville	**6-1**
Boone Grove	0-8
Hobart	11-16
Hobart	0-1
Andrean	0-2
Andrean	0-1
Hanover	1-5
Michigan City	**7-2**
Munster	3-11
Munster	1-2
Ren. Central	**10-1**
Lowell	**5-1**
Lowell	**11-10**
Highland	**5-2**
Highland	0-1
K.V.	2-4,
K.V.	2-4
Blackford Tourney	**1st Place**
New Prairie	7-10
Morton	**16-0**
Bishop Noll	**3-1**
Gavit	**10-0**
Lake Central	0-5
Wheeler	3-6
Sectionals:	
Gavit	**5-2**
Highland	**1-0**
Calumet	**19-0**
Regionals:	
Kankakee Valley	2-7

Final Record: 13-15

At home plate about to throw the runner out, sophomore Ali Schoon plays her starting position. "Catching makes me feel dominant on the field because I have the power to get the base runner out at any given time," said Schoon.

Pushing the Limits

The 2016 track season was filled with long practices, meets, and workouts. With conditioning starting in February, the team was able to get into shape and prepare for the spring season.

The weather at the beginning of the season called for winter coats and earmuffs, however, a few meets were warm when the sun was out. This can either be beneficial or worse, depending on running habits.

The event options in track are the 4x1 relay, 4x4 relay, 4x8 relay, 100 meter run, 200 meter run, 400 meter run, 800 meter run, 1600 meter run, and 3200 meter run. The field events are shot put, discuss, pole vault, hurdles, long jump, and high jump.

"I have been in track for two years. My favorite part is running the straightaway. I joined track to help me run faster for football. I get to help work on my speed in the offseason, hoping it will improve my performance for the upcoming football season. I also like sprinting because it is easier on my body since I sprint in other sports. I run the 100 dash and enjoy it a lot. With a lot of ab workouts, leg workouts, etc., it may seem tiring and annoying. In the end, this paid off though, with shaved seconds or minutes, personal records, and an easier time while running," said freshman Ernest Johnson.

This year, the team had many new faces. Students who had never ran track before had came out and decided to run for the first year. The coaches and students are always encouraging more to join. With such a big turnout, the team was able to work together and help each other when needed.

With a new boy's coach, the team had many different challenges to face. One of the main challenges was having to cope with a life threatening injury to Coach David Garret. Jenna Berzy was the head coach for the girl's team this year. In the end the team benefited though, and ended up bonding together.

The team will start preparing next winter for the 2017 spring season. "I'm excited for next year. It should be a more successful season and I plan on dropping more of my times. Also, I hope to advance further in the post season, both individually and as a team. With Mrs. Berzy and our new coaching staff, things were taken differently in order to prepare us for the years to come," said sophomore Trinity Austin.

Before running the relay, senior Marissa Perez warms up. "It's always good to be warmed up when you run so you don't cause injuries. I started running because I liked a boy that ran track, so I tried it and it just stuck with me," said Perez.

While jumping hurdles, junior Antonio Kneeland thinks about how much he enjoys it. "I love jumping hurdles. The first two are always hard but it gets easier for the next two. I try to really drill the hurdles at practice," said Kneeland.

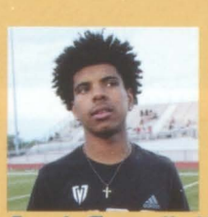
Shoe Frenzy

"The shoes I wear for track are New Balance because they are lighter and supposed to make me faster. They have spikes on them to grip the track. They aren't comfortable, but they are wide and not as heavy as other brands, therefore they make me a faster runner."

Richard Damron, 9

"When I run I wear Rebok, but when I sprint I wear Nike. I like having two brands of shoes for different events. Sprinters spikes are really short and the heel is thin so I can sprint faster. There is also mid-distance and long distance shoes, which vary in lengths."

Raquel Renton, 11



"I wear Nike shoe brand when I run because in my opinion they are the best brand. They are lightweight and suit me for what I run. I have always worn Nike for not only track but football. They are an all-around sport shoe brand that I love to wear for all the sports that I play."

Jacob Cottrell, 12

During his first year of track, freshman Craig Gordon runs the 4 by 1 relay. "The reason I joined track was so I could prepare for basketball season. My speed has improved greatly and I'm now in better shape," said Gordon.

Girls

Row 1: Marissa Perez, Leslie Leon, Trinity Austin, Makenzie McKinney, Kirsten Edwards, Raquel Renton
Row 2: Eva Solis, Hollie Witvoet, Jenna Berzy, Mike Rayson, Tori Welker, Kayla Piper, Abbegael Piunti

Boys

Row 1: Craig Gordon, Matthew Mulligan, Jacob Cottrell, Ernest Johnson, Antonio Kneeland, Thomas Perez
Row 2: Darail Williams, Jamaal Johnson, Jorge Robinson, Myles Taylor, Matthew Plopper, Rocco Renton, Khuslen Solongo, Collin Meadows
Row 3: David Garrett, Greyling Gordon, Richard Damron, Aarion Harvey, Isaiah Allen, Christian Jackson, Jamahl Johnson, Matthew Thomas, Anthony Zarndt

Opponent: Score:

	Boys:		Girls:
Hanover Central	**N/A**	Highland	**N/A**
Highland	**92-30**	Morton	**41-71**
Hobart	**118-14**	EC	**41-45**
Lowell	**109-11**	Morton	**41-71**
Munster	**119-8**	Calumet	**41-52**
KV	**93-38**	Hobart	**56-158**
Highland Invite	**N/A**	KV	**56-106**
Andrean/Calumet	**93-30**	EC	**41-45**
		Andrean	**27-79**
NCC Meet	**7th**	Sectionals:	**10th**

Final Records:

Boys **10-2**

Girls **7-5**

Varsity & Junior Varsity

Row 1: Merry Galindo, Mikaela Dragus, Tatum Josephson, Laura Reid, Hannah Ramirez, Kourtney Harris, Melanie Vera
Row 2: Dora White, Angelika Rodriguez, Jazmin Lopez, Stephaine Cordova, Albineice Thomas, Joe White

With eyes on the ball, sophomore Tatum Josephson awaits her opponent's serve that will start the match. "I love tennis. When I'm not out on the court, I'm looking up ways to improve my techniques. I'm glad I joined the team," said Josephson.

As she squeezes a few practice swings in before her match, senior Stephanie Cordova stands strong. "I get pretty nervous before each match, but when I start warming up, I calm down and am able to focus on my match," said Cordova.

Throwing the ball down for a perfect serve shot, senior Melanie Turner, waits for the right timing. "When I first played tennis, my serves were far from perfect. But with time and practice I am now confident in every swing," said Turner.

I.L Panthers!

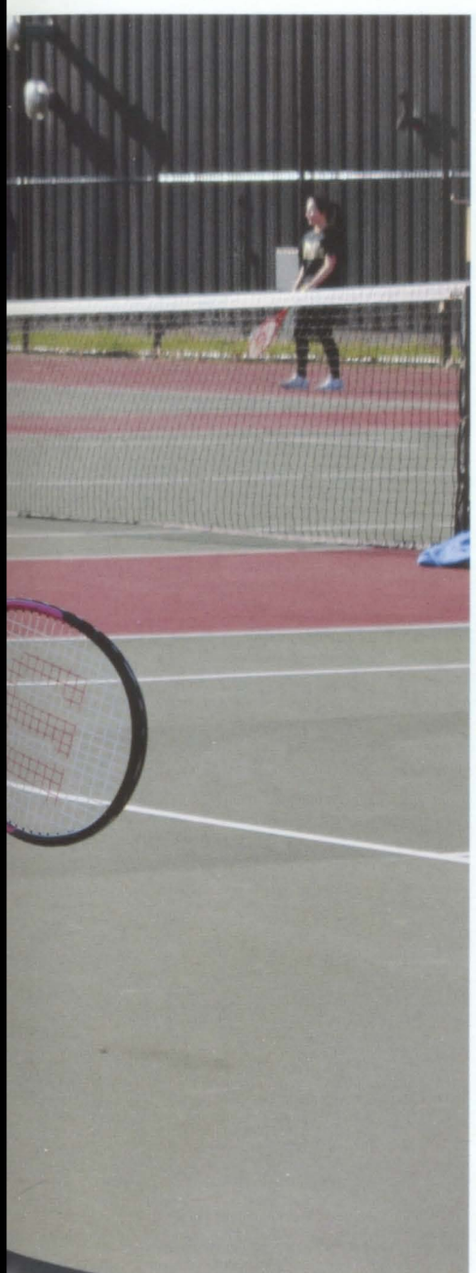
The girl's tennis team had worked so hard to make the best of their 2015-2016 season. With the year's much colder weather, the team had to practice in their spirit hoodies and sweat pants. The girls didn't let that one thing ruin their season, though. They kept working harder to win their matches and work to become stronger as a whole.

Conditioning started in the winter and they did a lot of running and indoor hitting. They focused on getting in shape and going over basic techniques for the new players. The older players mentored the new ones to save time from the coach reteaching the entire team. Once conditioning was over, they began their season. Practices were four days a week and sometimes over the weekend from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. They worked on serves, hitting, and receiving. They also practiced drills that made them faster in order to get to the ball in time. But practice wasn't all drills, the team held mini games that entertained them while working on their techniques.

The season started off rocky, matches weren't always won by the girls, and many were rained out with the unpredictable weather. The girls banded together to keep a positive vibe and continue to play and do their best to win their matches. There was also bonding with the girls. Sometimes after practices and matches, the team would go to a nearby Dairy Queen and eat ice cream.

On the night of a normal match scheduled for May 12th, the seniors were supposed to celebrate their senior night. Unfortunately, the match was canceled due to rain, and the seniors were forced to continue the ceremony in the Health room. This didn't dull the spirit of the seniors, and some of the underclassmen even shed a tear at the thought of their role models leaving.

"Its weird thinking that I've been playing tennis for four years and now everything is about to be over just like that. Within those few months we had together as a team, we've had an amazing time and I've made some unforgettable memories. My favorite memory from this season was when I won my match against Highland and all of my family members were there to support me. I really hope the underclassmen enjoy high school because it goes by way too fast. I definitely felt a lot of emotions during senior night. I'm really going to miss this team," said senior Jazmin Lopez.



Serving It Up

Mikaela Dragus, 10

"I haven't been playing tennis for that long now, but I am confident that I am getting the hang of it. I was a rookie when I started, and I will admit I wasn't that good. But with the coaches help, and the help of the previous teammates that have been playing for years, I know I can play a great match. I will miss the seniors though, they have helped me the most and it's sad to see them leave."

Kourtney Harris, 12

"I don't know what I would do without tennis. I've grown so accustomed to going to practice almost every day and being with my team. Senior night was a hard one for me, I got a bit emotional seeing the rest of the team clap and announce how much they're going to miss me. I've helped the new players learn techniques they'll need to win their matches and I know they will."

Opponent:	Score:
Lake Central	0-5
Clark	**4-1**
Portage	0-5
Calumet	1-3
Highland	1-4
Morton	**5-0**
Kankakee Valley	0-4
Lowell	0-5
Andrean	1-4
East Chicago	2-3
Bishop Noll	**3-2**
Hobart	0-5
Munster	0-5
Whiting	0-5
Wheeler	0-5
River Forest	0-5

Sectionals:

Hammond	**3-2**
Munster	0-5

Final Record: 4-18

Tee Time

Students saw their golf team return this April, as the boys resumed their routine practices and matches. Getting back into gear was a challenge for some of them.

"Focus is a really important part of golf, and it's a skill you really have to improve on. You can always work on your focusing skills, and that's what I try to improve on at every practice," said senior Andrew Bowman.

This was Bowman's last year on the team. Although he said he will not continue golf in college, he loves golf and his team and wishes them the best in the future.

For the team, go-time began right away, and the boys found themselves up and at it after school and on the weekends. With the 2016 season started, Coach Mike Worosz and his team headed out and began to warm up their rusty skills.

"When you're away from a sport for a decent amount of time, and you can't practice, some of your skills need some work when you return. These boys have been practicing really hard and I respect the comeback they've made this year," said Worosz.

For many months, the boys had been anticipating the return of golf after most finished their other sports. Many had to get back into the swing of things, such as balancing golf and homework, and even other hobbies. Junior Adam Kent not only joined golf, but was a part of the Robotics group, who won state this year.

"Managing two things can be a challenge. Golf requires a lot of skill, both in the mental and physical department, and even though it's not like Robotics, it can be difficult to juggle both. Thankfully, competitions don't run into each other, so Robotics ends right before golf starts up. However, I still practice with my team now and then," said Kent.

As a whole, the team agreed that they've improved as of last year, but they still need to work on shortgame. The team prepared to send their senior players on their way and open their arms to new teammates as the season came to a close, celebrating their successes and lamenting their setbacks. All in all, the golf team found the 2015-2016 year to be a successful one.

In the post season, senior Brian Brzycki was the only one who advanced to the regional tournament on June 11th. There, he shot a 78, only missing the state tournament by two strokes.

Eagles & Boogies

"As a freshman, I think it's an amazing that I got to play in two varsity matches alongside all of my upperclassmen friends. Our coach is a good guy and he knows what he's talking about, and we all know that we have to work on shortgame. Personally, I need to work on putting and perfecting my shots."

Chris Albanese, 9

"Not only have I improved over time, but so has our team. We've been getting more wins than last year, and our scores have been getting better. I'm really proud of how well we've turned out, but I know that we have to work on our team chemistry and our shortgame. There's always room for improvement."

Chase Janowski, 11

Taking his shot, junior Zac Hilgeman adjusts his stance and sees how far the ball will go. "I've always been into playing golf because I find it interesting," said Hilgeman. "I really enjoy playing with friends. I feel like they help me play better."

On the way to their Kankakee match, senior Brian Brzycki has a lively conversation with his teammates. "We were excited to play this match," said Brzycki. "On the way we shared some funny stories about last season and had some laughs."

As his club hits the ball, junior Keith Hernandez proudly watches as his successful shot goes toward the hole. "My shots have greatly improved since the beginning," said Hernandez. "I'm proud of not just myself, but my team as well."

Varsity

Row 1: Keith Hernandez, Chase Janowski, Mikey Worosz, Adam Kent, Brian Brzycki, Jake Janik, Chris Albanese
Row 2: Andrew Bowman, Nathan Vuckovich, Zac Hilgeman, Sam Stassin, Daniel Uylaki, Michael Worosz

Opponent:	Score:
Hobart Scramble	116, 4th
Wheeler	**178-193**
Highland	182-177
Portage Invite	364, 5th
Kankakee Valley	**190-197**
Morton/Clark/Whiting	**179, 1st**
Lowell	**186-189**
Hobart	182-170
KV Invite	388, 9th
Munster	182-177
Calumet	**176-239**
Andrean	185-177
LC Invite	413, 18th
Sectionals:	
NCC Tournament	378, 8th

Final Record: 5 - 9

After making a successful shot, sophomore Sam Stassin watches his ball fly across the course towards the hole. "My dad and brother got me into golf," said Stassin. "My dad used to play in an amateur league and I want to be like him."

As he works to get the ball, senior Jacob Cottrell takes on the other team. "It's a lot harder to play basketball in a chair rather than on your feet because before you can do anything you have to push the wheels," said Cottrell.

Jennifer Kocon, Nurse

Hannah Villa, 12

Josh Zoran, 12 &
Trevor Sheffield, 11

National Anthem

GHS Students

Members of Best Buddies dance to "Watch Me" by Silento with their buddies. "I loved how much they all loved to dance and how they all loved the song and hitting the whip and nae nae," said senior Daniel Walker.

Starting off the annual wheelchair basketball event, Ben Geffert, P.E. prepares to bring the ball on to his side of the court. "I always enjoy having this event here because it gives all the students and staff a competitive side," said Geffert.

Wheel On

Every year during disability awareness month, the Chicago Fire wheelchair basketball team come to play some of Griffith students and faculty. The whole school filled the gym to watch the teams go head-to-head. The Griffith staff geared up and got into their wheelchairs.

"I always enjoy this game because it celebrates the things that make us unique and it brings us all together like a family. It was especially nice for them to see what it's like to be in other people's shoes and for them to see what its like to be in the position of others everyday obstacles," said Dustin Nelson, middle school principal.

Everyone enjoyed a halftime performance by the Pantherette dance team. They performed their Pom competition dance for the last time of the season.

The cheerleaders cheered for the Panthers along the sideline for the whole game. They did a stunt and got the crowd to participate in the "Panther Rumble" cheer. Everyone stomped and clapped along to the beat, hoping for a home team win.

The game was neck and neck and the students eyes were on the court. Griffith High School graduates, Jackie and Jodi Morales, are both members of the Chicago Fire basketball team.

The best buddies program came out in between periods and honored all the senior students in the program. Senior members were given a certificate and a flower for all their hard work and dedication while in the program. Moments later, the whole group went into the middle of the court and danced to "Watch Me". All the students in the main gym got on their feet and joined along.

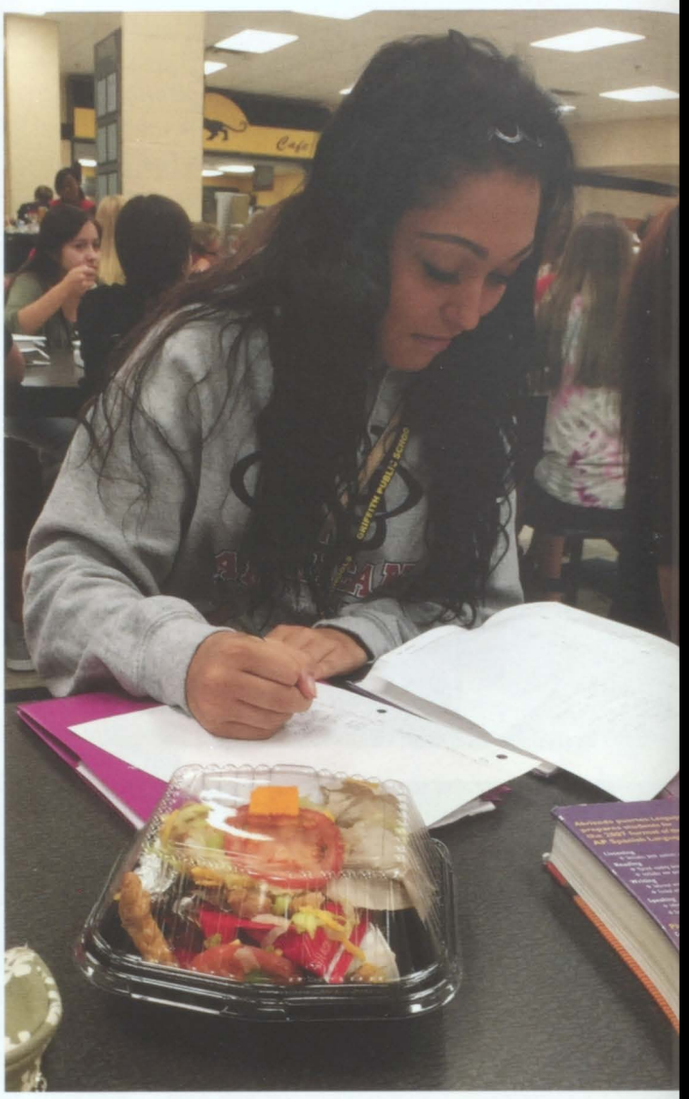
Also, in between periods, senior Josh Zoran and junior Trevor Sheffield participated in a dance-off. The whole gym went wild when Zoran did the worm and when Sheffield broke out into some dance moves on the gym floor. Based on the loudness of cheering from the students in the bleachers, it was obvious that Zoran won the dance-off. Once the winner of the two boys was decided by the audience's applause, the panther mascot took on the winner.

In honor of disability awareness month, senior Hannah Villa got the honor of smashing a pie into Principal Dustin Nelson's and Nurse Jen's face. Everyone screamed as they saw the staff covered in whipped cream.

Going in for the shot, senior, Zach Thomas, tries to help the Griffith team gain points. "I really enjoyed playing against the Chicago Fire team. They were really intimidating and that made me want to work even harder," said Thomas.

Seniors

At the pep rally, the senior class cheers on the two senior teams playing against each other in tug-of-war. "Uniting together as a class is one of my favorite things during homecoming week. We all come together as one," said senior Megan Mann.



As she vigorously finishes her AP Spanish homework while eating a salad, senior Lauren Vieyra hopes to finish before lunch ends. "I take advantage of my lunch to finish up any last minute homework for classes after lunch," said Vieyra.

Jacob Adams
Baseball 9,10,11,12 Tennis 11,12 NHS 11,12 Student Council 9,10,11,12 Class Council 9,10,11,12 Turnabout Court Homecoming Court

Rachel Adams
Pantherettes 9,10,11,12 (Captain 11,12) Student Council 10,11,12 Booster Club 9,10,11,12 Class Council 9,10,11,12 FCCLA 11,12 International Club 9

Daniella Ayala
Soccer 11,12 Cross Country 9,10 Track 9,10 *Reflector* 9,10,11,12 Class Council 9,10,11,12 Student Council 9,12 Booster Club 9,10 International Club 9,10 Best Buddies 12 *Edge* 12 DECA 12

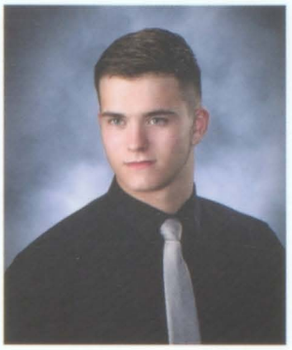
Jillian Beaupain
Pantherettes 9,10,11,12 (Captain 12) *Panther Press* 9,10,11,12 (Editor-in-Chief 12) NHS 11,12 Booster Club 9,10,11,12 Class Council 10,11,12 *Edge* 12 FCCLA 11,12 Paranormal Society 11,12

Christian Benjamin

Thomas Biancardi
Student Council 9,10,11,12 (Treasurer 10 Vice President 11 President 12) Class Council 9,10,11,12 (President 10,11) Math Academic Superbowl 9,10,11,12 (Co-Captain 11 Captain 12) *Panther Press* 10,11,12 NHS 11,12 (Historian 12) FCCLA 12 (Public Relations 12) Best Buddies 12 English Academic Superbowl 11 Turnabout Court (Prince)

Andrew Bowman
Bowling 10,11,12 Golf 9,10,11,12 Art Club 10,11 Paranormal Society 12

Brian Brzycki
Golf 9,10,11,12 (Captain 11,12) Tennis 11,12



Bethany Brucer
Volleyball 9,10,11,12 (Captain 11,12)

Tim Cichon
Football 9,10,11,12

Miranda Coccaro

Nathaniel Coglianese
Cross Country 9,10 Track & Field 9,10

Brandon Collett

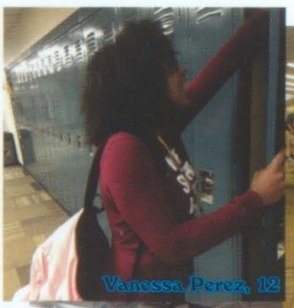
Kersten Collins
Reflector 9,10,11,12 (Co-Editor 11,12) Bowling 9,10,11,12 (Captain 12) NHS 11,12 (Vice President 12) Class Council 9,10,11,12 Booster Club 9,10,11,12 Student Council 9,10,11,12

Alexandria Colomes
Basketball 9,10,11,12 Softball 9,10,11,12 NHS 11,12 Class Council 10,11,12 Math Academic Superbowl 12 Student Council 12

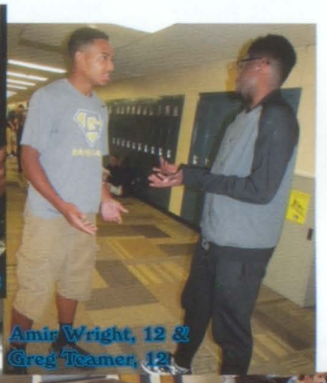
Nicholas Conti

Gregory Copp
Student Council 9 Class Council 10,11,12 (Secretary 11,12) Basketball 9 Baseball 9,10 Tennis 10,11,12 Choir 9,10,11,12 (Chorale 11,12)

Stephaine Cordova
Best Buddies 12 International Club 12 Class Council 12 Tennis 10,11,12 (Captain 12) Prom Court (Queen)



Vanessa Perez, 12



Amir Wright, 12 & Greg Teamer, 12

Michael Marsenic, 12

Zach Thomas, 12

Senior Class Council

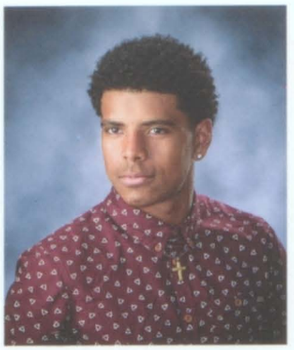
During the powderpuff game, senior Alejandra Leon gets ready to play in the third quarter. "It was really exciting to be on the field and coming together as a team to beat the juniors. The game also prepared us for hoco weekend," said Leon.

Arlynne Corona
Cheerleading 9,10,11,12 (Captain 12) Fine Arts Academic Superbowl 9,10,11,12 (Captain 11,12) Class Council 10,11,12 Booster Club 9,10,11,12 Student Council 9,10,11,12 FCCLA 9

Kassandra Cortez

Jacob Cottrell
Football 9,10,11,12 Track & Field 9,10,11,12

Troy Cullen
Football 9,10,11,12 Baseball 9,10,11,12 Career Center 11,12 Choir 9,10



Nichalas Dieguez
NHS 11,12 Drama 12 Chess Club 12

David Dowd
Track & Field 9 NHS 11,12

Shamyra Fitzpatrick

Victoria Ford

Mariah Fowler
Soccer 9,10,11,12 (JV Captain 9,10 Varsity Captain 11,12) Student Council 9,10,11,12 Class Council 9,10,11,12 FCCLA 9,10 Paranormal Society 11

Jayna Frink

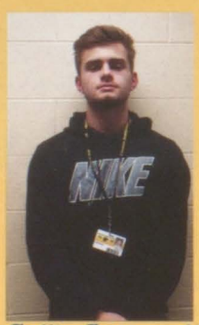
Sabrina Garcia
Cheerleading 9,10 Pantherettes 11,12 Booster Club 9,10,11,12 Paranormal Society 11,12 FCCLA 11,12 Class Council 11,12 International Club 10,11

Antonio Garcia
Football 9,10,11,12 Baseball 9

What You'll Miss Most

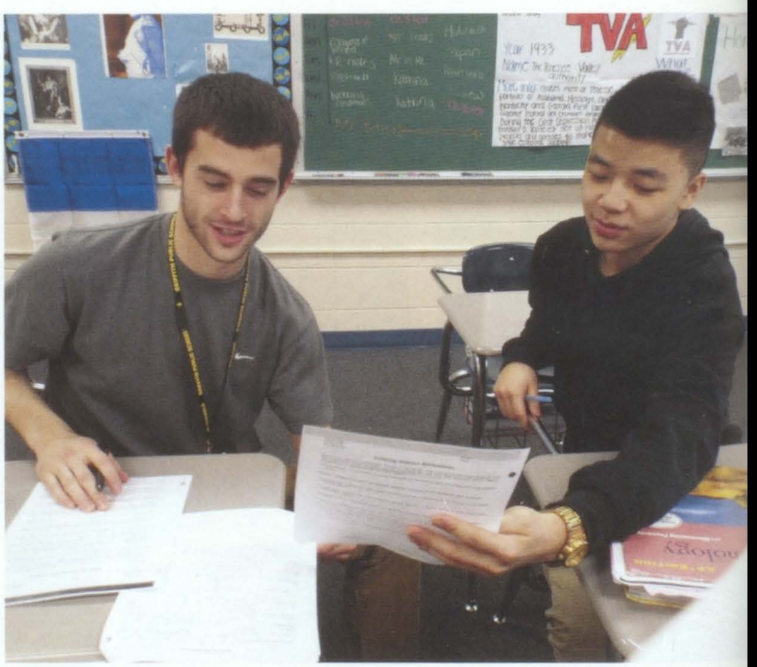
"As eager as I am to graduate, there will be plenty of things I'll miss about the G. I'll definitely miss Mr. Pickett and his notorious wacky wild dad jokes and not to mention his dance moves, such as the dab, the whip, and the nae-nae, just to name a few. The main thing I'll miss about the G are my porkies. I'll miss our sleepovers, our lunch talks, and not having to worry about anything or anyone else besides each other. I hope that even though after we go our own ways when we graduate and in college we will still keep in contact and that they'll be my forever friends."

Leandra Wimmer, 12

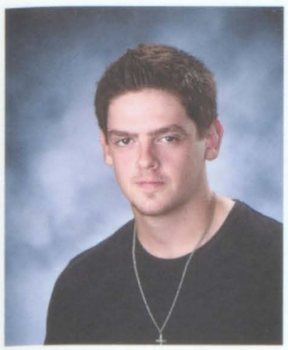


"There are many things I'll miss from the G after I graduate. I'll definitely miss playing football; I've built incredible bonds with my team members since freshman year until senior year. I'll miss coach Geffert and his motivation to do my best no matter how tough the competition is. I'll miss our important wins, such as beating Hobart at our home field and advancing to regionals. I'll also be missing seeing my friends, it'll feel weird not seeing them everyday, joking around in the halls. I'll especially be missing the lunch table I sat at and all our daily shenanigans."

Collin Sutton, 12



Working together in Jenna Berzy's AP psychology class, seniors Blake Megquier and David Hom compare answers on a worksheet. "I think this class is hard, but being able to work in partners helps me understand the lessons better," said Megquier.



Robert Gatlin

Jacob George

Jose Gonzalez
Soccer 9,10,11,12 (Captain 12)

Kaily Gonzalez
Choir 9,10,11,12

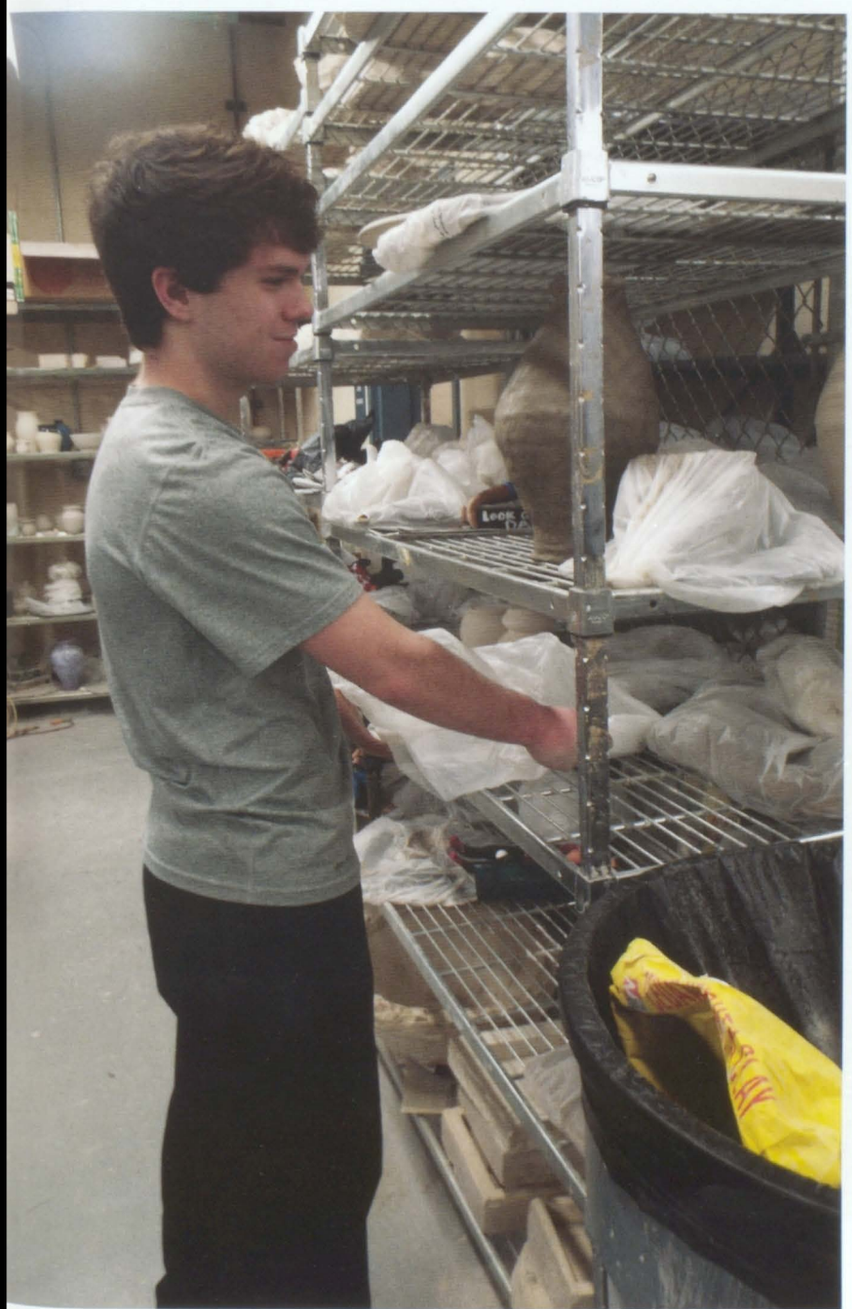
Michael Hedrick, 12 & Connor Pascoe, 12

Melanie Turner, 12

Morgan Taylor, 12

Diane Torres, 12

Marcus Marsenic, 12 & Nikki Hamm, 12



In Jim's Graff's ceramics class, senior Jeff Gautreaux gets ready to make final changes to his pot. "I try to make the most out of the class. It's cool to make different pots that I can give away or keep for myself and store anything in it," said Gautreaux.

At the end of Jim Pickett's government class, seniors Mario Williams and Mia Barnes share a laugh before the bell rings. "I like the environment in Pickett's class. We all like to crack jokes and it makes learning more interesting," said Barnes.

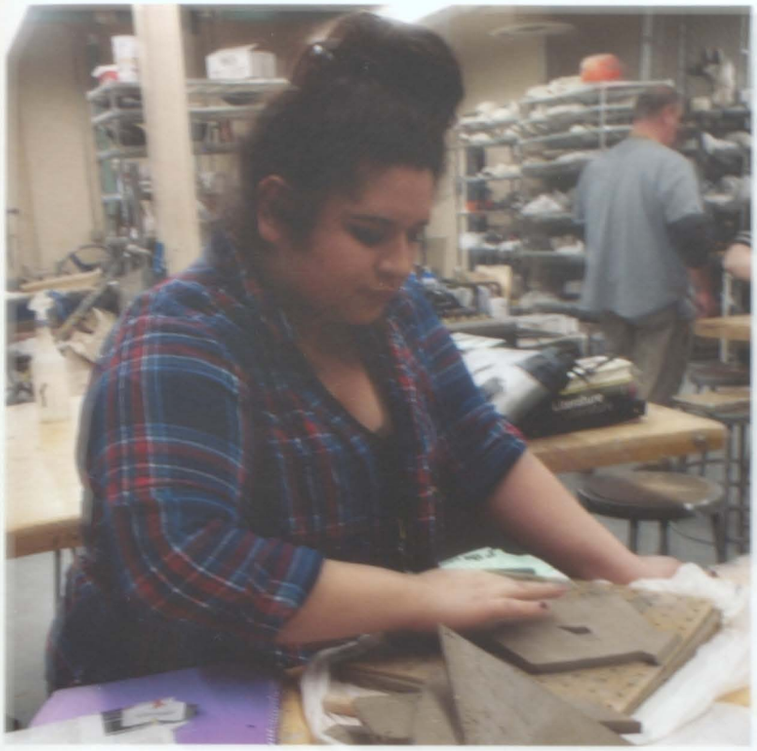
Diana Gonzalez
Claire Guernsey
Dominiquie Hamm
Kourtney Harris
Tennis 10,11,12

Michael Hedrick
Robyn Helton
Riley Hendron
Panther Press 9,10,11,12 (Editor-in-Chief 12) *Edge* 9,10,11,12 (Editor-in-Chief 12) NHS 11,12 FCCLA 9,10,11,12 (Vice President 12) Booster Club 9,10,11,12 Class Council 10,11,12 International Club 9,10,11,12 Choir 9,10,11,12 Tennis 11,12 *Reflector* 12
Raymond Hernandez-Rodriguez

Sidney Hero
Kody Hoese
Basketball 9 Student Council 9,10,11,12 NHS 11,12 Baseball 9,10,11,12 (Captain 12) Top Ten
Victoria Holtzer
Pantherettes 9,10,11,12 (Captain 11) Booster Club 9,10,11,12 *Reflector* 9,10,11,12 (Business Manager 10,11 Co-Editor 12) NHS 11,12 Student Council 9,10,11,12 (Historian 11,12) *Edge* 11,12 Class Council 9,10,11,12 (Vice President 10,11 President 12) FCCLA 9,10,11,12 (President 11,12) Paranormal Society 11,12 Turnabout Court Prom Court Homecoming Court
David Hom

Laticia Howard
Basketball Manager 12
Alexis Ingle
Sammy Issa
Anes Issa

At the half time break during the powder puff game, senior Laticia Howard stands with the senior team to discuss the game plan. "I've never played in a game like this before so I was a little nervous, but I was glad we ended up winning," said Howard.



Putting her creative side to work in Jim Graff's third hour ceramics class, senior Anissa Rivera sculpts her pottery. "I think ceramics is an awesome way to express yourself in a different way. I'm pretty artistic so I enjoy the class," said Rivera.

While at the homecoming pep rally, senior Miranda Coccaro attempts to help other seniors beat the teachers in tug-of-war. "For me, it was the best one because it was my senior year and the first time I ever played in the games," said Coccaro.

Kaylynn Jarrells
Elana Jones
Corey Josephson
Jacob Kamaski

Taylor Kazmer
Erica Kik
Ashley Kitzmiller
Michael Koliboski
Sewing 9/10/11/12 Choir 9/10

Take Me Back in Time to...

Nathaniel Coglianese, 12

"If I was to be able to go back to any grade of my choice, I would pick my fourth grade class at Wadsworth Elementary. I enjoyed it mostly because of how simple everything was. I miss having recess and snack time during the school day. It was also better because of how little stress I felt in fourth grade. Having one homeroom class was much easier than having eight different rooms and teachers a day to have to go back and forth everyday."

Teliya Loudenber, 12

"If I was able to go back to any grade I would choose to go back to my freshman year because I slacked off a lot and I wish I would've taken it more seriously. Even though I wish I would've done more of my work, it was also a great year for me though because I had an amazing time while I was on the cheer team. Another good memory of freshman year is that my little brother, Blake, finally received the kidney transplant he needed."

Fast Forward

"In the future I want to be an occupational therapist, one who works to help kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). I have a cousin with autism, and my aunt persuaded me to pursue this career. I'm still looking for a college that has this program. When my classmates see me in a couple years, I would want them to remember me by how nice and hard-working I was."

Ashley Kitzmiller, 12

"I'm still deciding on what college I want to go to, but I know I want to be an audio engineer. An audio engineer works with recording, editing, and manipulating sounds. I would really like to be able to hook-up speakers. I randomly chose this career because I love listening to music. When I see someone from my school later in life I would want them to remember me for being funny."

Drew Jackson, 12

"My only year at GHS was easier than I had anticipated because the people were welcoming," said senior Elizabeth Esparza. To take advantage of the free time given after Pickett's lesson is taught, Esparza diligently does her homework.

Lauren Kovacic
Swimming 10,11,12 (Captain 12) Softball 9,10,11 FCCLA 10,11,12 (Vice President 11,12) Student Council 10,11,12 NHS 11,12 Class Council 9,10,11,12 International Club 10,11,12 (Secretary 11) Drama 11,12

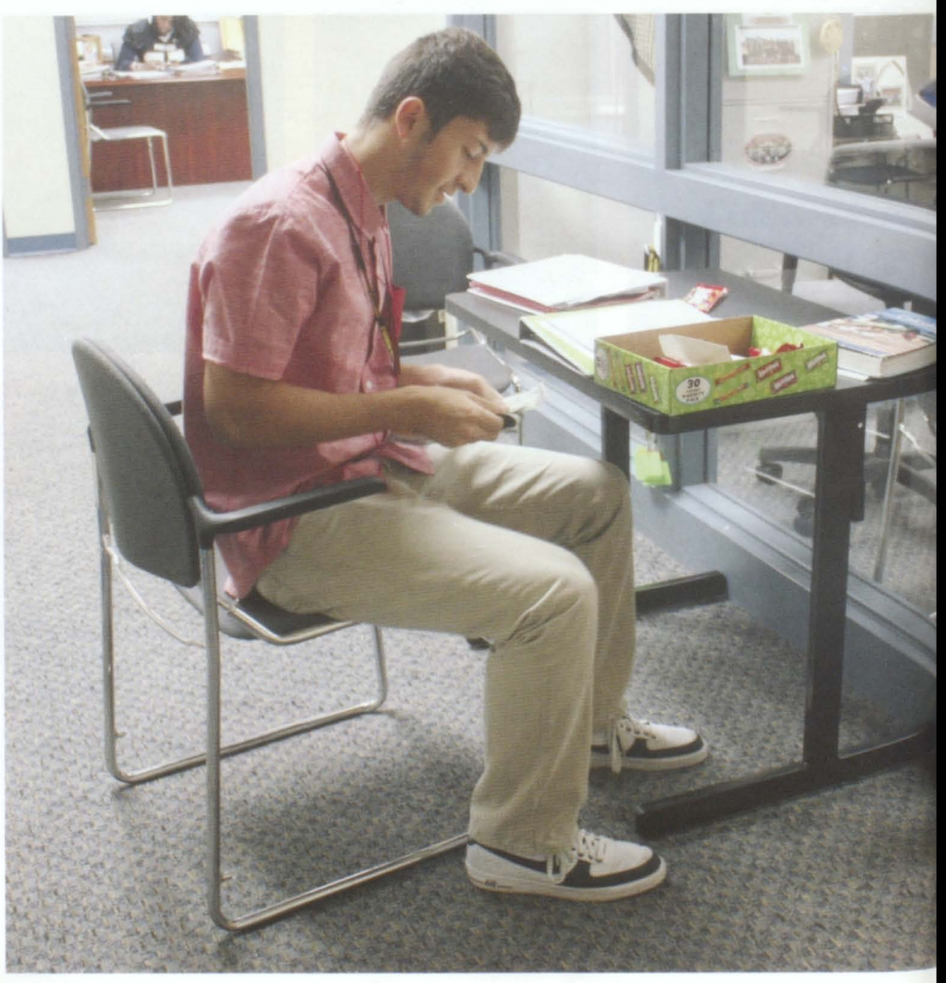
Joshua Lawrence
Construction Trades 12

Camryn Linders
Reflector 9,10,11,12 Pantherettes 9,10,11,12 Booster Club 9,10,11,12 Class Council 9,10,11,12 *Edge* 11 International Club 11 Tennis 11 Paranormal Society 11,12

Jared Lipski
Student Council 9,10,11,12 Class Council 9,10,11,12 NHS 11,12 Football 9,10,11,12 Baseball 9,10,11,12 Paranormal Society 12

Kira Lisle
Soccer 9,10,11,12

Alexandra Longoria



Adrian Lopez
Soccer 9,10,11,12 (Captain 12) NHS 11,12 Class Council 10,11,12 (Treasurer 11 Vice President 12) Student Council 12 Paranormal Society 11,12

Jacklyn Lopez

Jazmin Lopez
Volleyball 9,10 Tennis 9,10,11,12 *Reflector* 11,12 (Photo Editor 12) Booster Club 9,10,11,12 International Club 9,10,11,12 FCCLA 12 Class Council 12 AICPA 12 *Edge* 12 DECA 11,12

Teliya Loudenber
Panther Press 9,10,11,12 Cheerleading 9,10 Pantherettes 11 FCCLA 10,11,12 Booster Club 9,10,11,12

Caroline Loughren

Mahogany Lyles

Oscar Magallanes

JaNiwa Magee
Bowling 11,12 Homecoming Court (Queen)

Megan Mann
Soccer 9,10,11,12 Track & Field 11

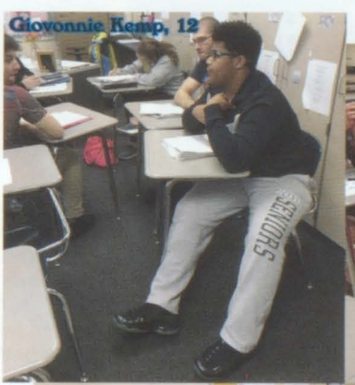
Lily Maravilla
Pantherettes 11,12 Cheerleading 9,10 International Club 10,11,12 Student Council 11,12 Class Council 10,11,12 Booster Club 9,10,11,12 Paranormal Society 11,12 NHS 11,12

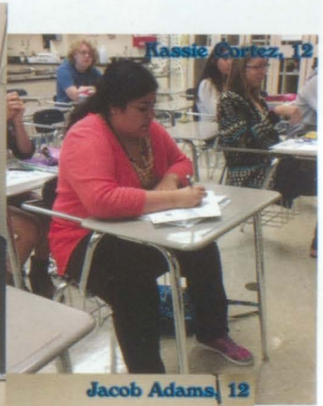
Justine Martinez

Isaiah Martinez
Basketball 11,12

To help fundraise for DECA, senior Adrian Lopez counts the money he has received from selling candy. "Selling candy was not hard because people just came up to me asking to buy it. We also have the spirit shop to help raise funds," said Lopez.

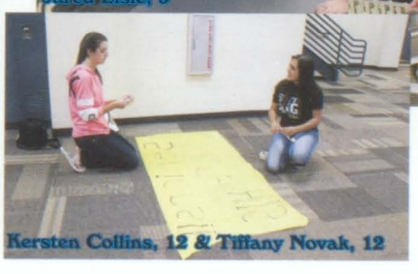
Rolling the gluten-free sugar cookie dough into small circles, senior Alexandra Longoria helps FCCLA bake for a pet therapy program. "I enjoyed being able to use what I learned in baking outside of the classroom for a good cause," said Longoria.


Giovonnie Kemp, 12


Kassie Cortez, 12

Nichalas Dieguez, 12 & Jared Lisle, 9

Jacob Adams, 12


Kersten Collins, 12 & Tiffany Novak, 12

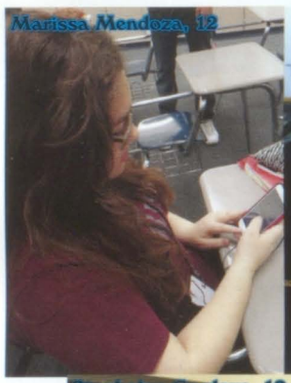
Kevin Matson
Science Academic Superbowl 9,10,11,12, (Co-Captain 9 Captain 10,11,12) Math Academic Superbowl 9,10,11,12 (Captain 11) NHS 11,12 Student Advisory Council 11 Programming 9,10,11,12

Blake Megquier

Arturo Mendoza

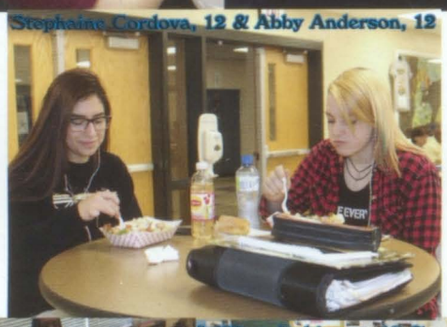
Marissa Mendoza
Choir 9,10,11,12 FCCLA 10,11,12 NHS 11,12 Poetry Club 11 Tennis 10

Griffen Metz
Ashley Moore
Ali Mroueh
Sabrina Munsie

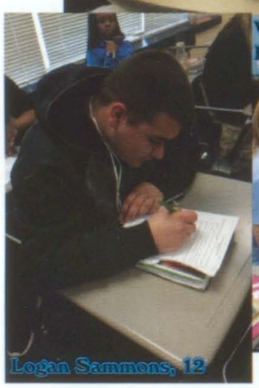


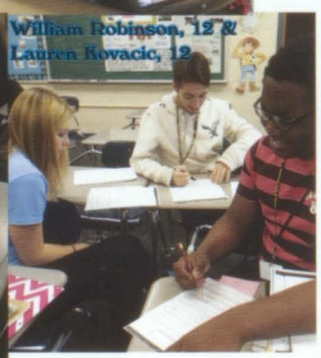
Marissa Mendoza, 12

Alex Colomes, 12 & Denny Colomes, 11



Stephaine Cordova, 12 & Abby Anderson, 12





William Robinson, 12 & Lauren Kovacic, 12

Logan Sammons, 12

While filling the display case with balloons for the senior prank, senior Victoria Ford helps out. "Although it wasn't much of a prank, we made it work. We were there for two hours and we made the display case look a lot better," said Ford.

Building the senior float for the homecoming parade, senior Stephanie Cordova sits with her friends while painting a panther. "It was fun to bond with the people in my class. I loved every minute of it and wish I could relive it," said Cordova.

In Marilyn Brunk's Intro to Computer Science, the class played with remote controlled spheres. "The spheres were kind of a hassle to deal with at first because they kept falling down the stairs," said senior Brandon Collett.

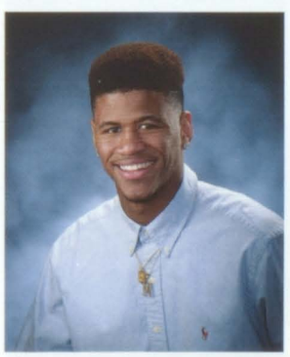
Senioritis

"To beat senoritis I think about how I need to get into college or else Moncia (my mom) will be mad and kick me out of the house. I play softball to relieve the stress. It helps me a lot because it's what I love to do and I always have a great time playing it. I also try not to take many days off because then all I'll want to do is keep missing and then I'll lose my credits. I do my homework as soon as I get it, so that way I don't have to take it home with me and I won't worry about it. No one told me how hard senoritis would hit, but I try to take it one day at a time."

Sidney Hero, 12

"Senoritis really hit me in the beginning of the year when everyone started talking about what college they were going to and I had no idea. Also, when people started talking about what they were going to major in and I hadn't even thought about it. All of this came really fast and I didn't feel ready for it at all. Being around my friends has helped me relieve the stress a lot because we try to just live in the moment and not focus too much on the future. We're just trying to get through high school. The future is coming up and I still have a lot to prepare for."

Logan Perry, 12



Anthony Murphy
Tremell Murphy

Scott Nolan
Band 9,10,11,12 NHS 11,12 Drama 9,10,11,12 (3rd Chair Flogan 12) All-Heart 9,10,11,12 Stacking 'Em On 9,10,11,12

Tiffany Novak
Panther Press 9,10,11,12 (Editor-in-Chief 12) NHS 11,12 Student Council 9,10,11,12 *Edge* 12 FCCLA 9,10,11,12 (Officer of Public Relations 12) Class Council 9,10,11,12 (Treasurer 10) Paranormal Society 11,12 International Club 9,10,11 Soccer 9 Tennis 10

Connor Pascoe
Tennis 10,11,12 Girl's Tennis Manager 11,12 Track 9

Derrick Peatry

The senior and junior class attended a meeting about scholarship opportunities and the career fair. "This meeting was very informative and I am glad that we had the opportunity learn about scholarships," said senior Kourtney Harris.

The senior section let go extra balloons from their senior prank at the end of the annual Homecoming pep rally. "The pep rally is a great way to get involved in the festivities of Homecoming," said senior Raymond Hernandez.

Marissa Perez
Soccer 9,10,11,12 Swimming 10,11,12 (Captain 12) Track 9,10,11,12 (Captain 12) FCCLA 9,10,11,12 (President 11,12) NHS 11,12 (President 12) Student Council 9,10,11,12 Class Council 9,10,11,12

Vanessa Perez

Logan Perry
Basketball 9 Class Council 9,10,11,12 Paranormal Society 11,12 Choir 9

Giovanni Posley
Bowling 9,10,11,12 Tennis 9,10,11,12

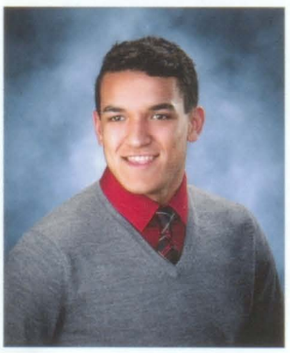
Aliza Price

Anthony Quintero

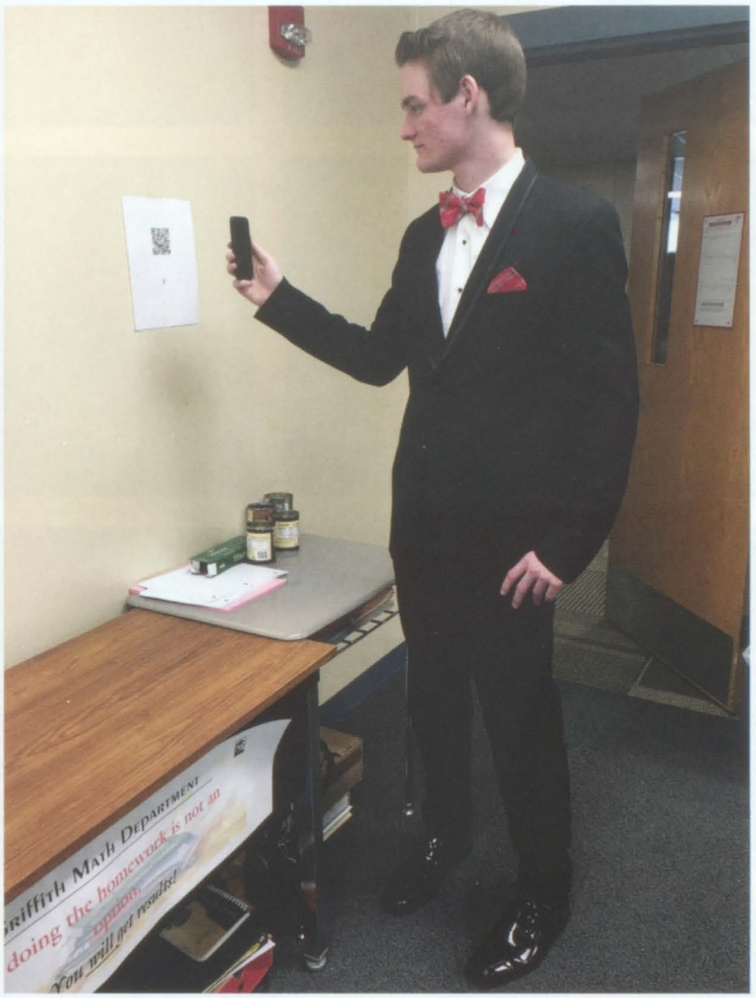
Serena Reese

Rocco Renton

Austin Roberts
Drama 10,11,12 GLS 12 Career Center: Construction 12



Scanning a QR code in calculus, senior Scott Nolan waits for his phone to give the next problem in his station assignment. "It was better than notes and the regular stations where you just look off of a piece of paper on the wall," said Nolan.



Senior Class Council

Arlynne Corona, 12

Josh Zoran, 12, Greg Copp, 12 & David Hom, 12

Austin Roberts, 12 & Brody Welk, 12

Thao Hoang, 12

Logan Sammons

Joseph Shapiro
Choir 9.10 Golf 9.10
Destiny Shaw
Brittany Shelley
Ashlie Shipp

Laura Slayton
Eva Solis
Soccer 11,12 Swimming 11,12 (Captain 12) Track 11,12
International Club 12 DECA 12
Collin Sutton
Karli Taylor

Morgan Taylor
Softball 9,10,11,12 (Captain 12) NHS 11,12 FCCLA 10,11,12 Class Council 9,10,11,12

Gregory Teamer
Basketball 9,10,11,12

Greylon Teamer

James Thomas

Zach Thomas
Football 9,10,11,12 Student Council 9,10,11,12 Class Council 9,10,11,12 Baseball 9 Choir 9,10

Courtney Tinsley
Softball 9,10 Career Center 11,12

Michael Torres

Melanie Turner
Best Buddies 12 Soccer 9,10,11,12 (Captain 9) Tennis 10,11,12

Andrew Vera

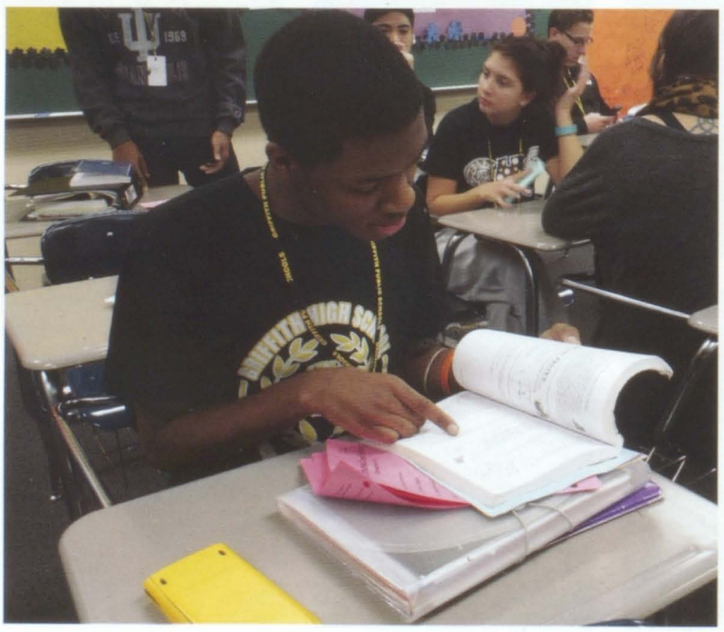
Lauren Vieyra
Cheerleading 9,10,11,12 (Captain 12) Class Council 9,10,11,12 Turnabout Court (Princess) FCCLA 9,10,11,12 Student Council 9,11,12 *Reflector* 11 Booster Club 9,10,11 International Club 9,10 Prom Court

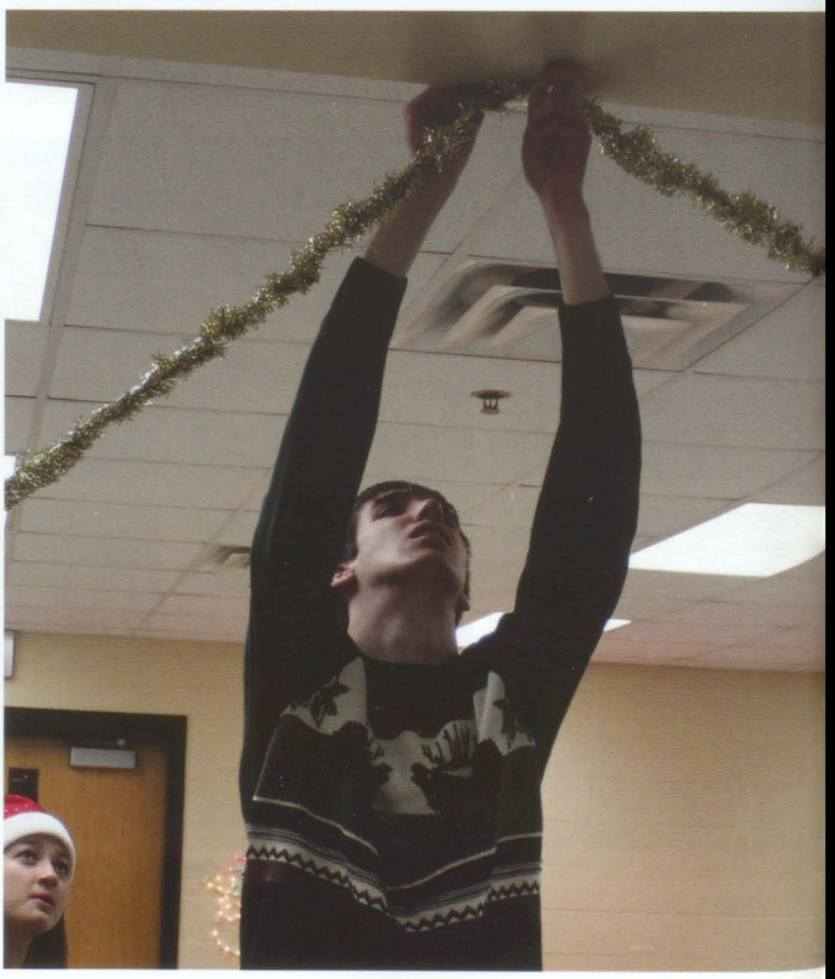
Hannah Villa

Nathan Vuckovich
Golf 9,10,11,12 Tennis 10,11,12 Bowling 11,12 Chorale 12 Wrestling 9,10 Football 9 Drama 9 Student Council 9 International Club 10 FCCLA 9,10

During panther time, senior Calvin Robertson studies for his Spanish test while he has free time. "I personally like panther time because if we're not doing anything I can use the class as a study hall and study for some tests," said Robertson.

Right before the Best Buddies Christmas party, senior Jacob George hangs some garland from the ceiling. "The Christmas party was so fun and my favorite part was signing and dancing with my best buddy Daniel Walker," said George.





Daniel Walker

Brody Welk

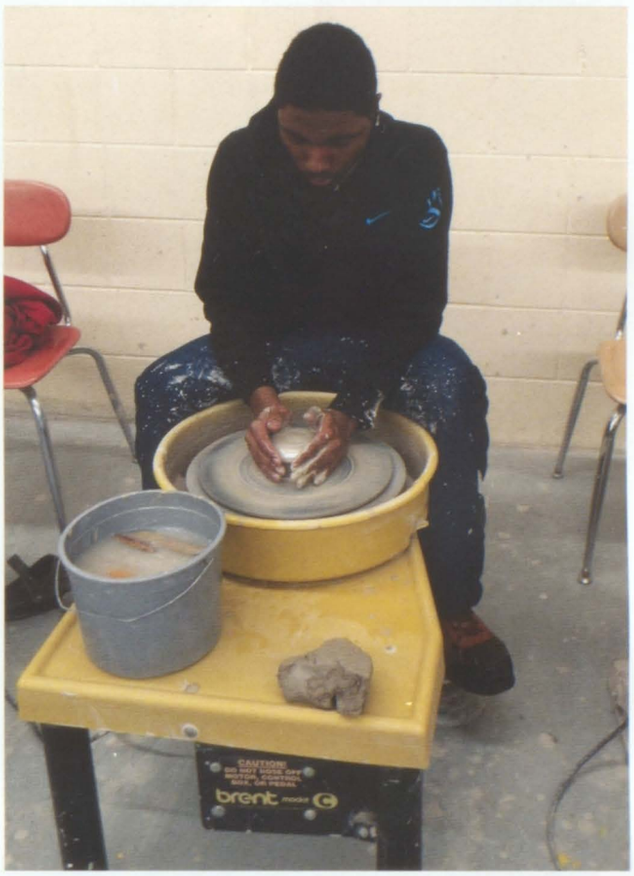
Darail Williams
Track 11,12 Poetry Club 12

Leandra Wimmer
Reflector Staff 9,10,11,12 Chorale 11,12 Pantherettes 9,11,12 Swimming 10 Class Council 9,10,11,12 Paranormal Society 11,12 Booster Club 9,11,12 Edge 11

Amir Wright
Class Council 9,10,11,12 (Treasurer 12) DECA 12 Basketball 9,10 Baseball 9,10,11,12 (Captain 12)

Joshua Zoran

Ceramics II student, senior Remigton Snow, works diligently on centering his project. "Everything is really hard for me in that class because I'm stuck on centering. This is definitely much harder than it looks," said Snow.

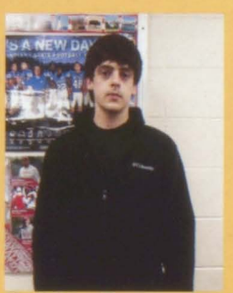


While painting a pumpkin around Halloween, senior Nathan Dixon wears his Ghostbusters costume. "Painting my pumpkin helped to make my Halloween even better. I love to be creative during the holidays," said Dixon.

Funniest Memories

Taporia Brown, 12

"There are multiple things I will be able to look back on and laugh from my senior year. There's so many memories that I'll be able to cherish forever. During Mrs. KV's class the students would place distorted pictures on their phones under the projector until Mrs. KV noticed. Another thing I will never forget that always got me and my whole class laughing was when Chidi told us her boyfriend is the Pythagorean theorem. That made my entire senior year."



Robbie Gatlin, 12

"What's a better way to start off the beginning of my senior year than getting pulled over? Well, you can believe that was me all because I was speeding and I wasn't wearing my motorcycle helmet. It's just something funny that I'll be able to look back on and laugh about. The good thing was I did end up getting off with a warning which is definitely a lesson I learned from. Honestly, looking back I'm glad something funny happened that morning because it started off a fantastic year."

Advertisements

The hallways of Griffith High School are always full of fliers that advertised dances, sporting events, after school clubs, and so much more. It is essential for clubs to fundraise for their organization in order to cover various fees. Not only does this benefit the organization that each member is selling for by giving back money, it also gives the group an opportunity to work together to meet their desired goal for that fundraiser.

The National Honors Society chose to sell boxes of candy this year. Each member of the group was given a box of World's Finest chocolate and expected to sell it to help pay for the seniors' graduation tassels and other expenses throughout the year, including the Top Ten dinner.

Sports teams took turns selling 50/50 raffle tickets and they used to work concessions. This year, however, a company called "Deez Eatz" took over and employed students that were interested in working. All the fundraising really helped the teams and families by making it easier to get the team and players the equipment and other things they needed.

The Griffith High School bowling team sold 50/50 and raffle tickets at Set Em Up every week to raise money for the practices and tournaments that they had signed up for. They also sold Lady's Gourmet Popcorn to cover their expenses for hotels, team dinners, and equipment.

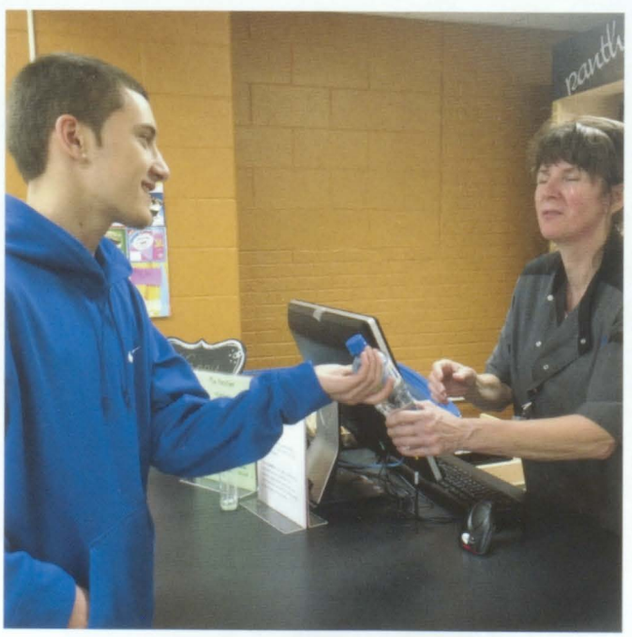
This year, Best Buddies sold boxes of candy bars, boo grams during the month of October, and smencils so they were able to purchase items and food for their monthly activities.

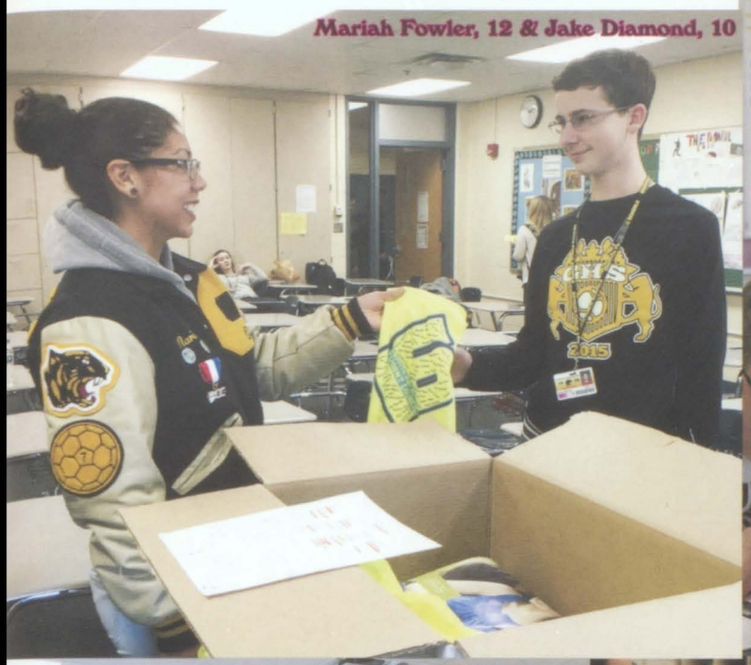
Pantherettes had fundraisers and sold Krispy Kremes for the team to help offset the expense of their uniforms and other spirit wear. They were usually sold during the Friday night football games. They set up a fundraiser with Lady's Gourmet Popcorn to sell bags of popcorn as well.

The girls' and boys' soccer teams sold fan shirts, had a camp for little girls, and multiple car washes over the summer to raise money to pay for the senior banquet and to help players to pay for their spirit packs. They also organized a raffle that was giving away an Apple Mac Air laptop, a $200 Best Buy gift card, and a $100 gift card. New this year, the boys and girls played a game against each other to earn more funds. "We did a few different things this year. We sold tamales and other Mexican food at a stand during the 'Rock n Rail' fest. I enjoyed playing against the girls team because it wasn't as competitive as normal games, but the girls still put up a good fight," said freshman Taylor Bliss.

Other fundraising that took place at GHS included the purchasing of student council shirts, multiple open swim nights run by the swim team and lifeguards for two hours, and students in career center selling boxes of chocolate dipped pretzels.

Purchasing a Propel during B lunch junior Samuel Dittrich thanks the lunch lady, Jenifer Massey. "The ala carte line is convenient because the line is always short so I can get my food and drinks faster than I would in the other lines," said Dittrich.

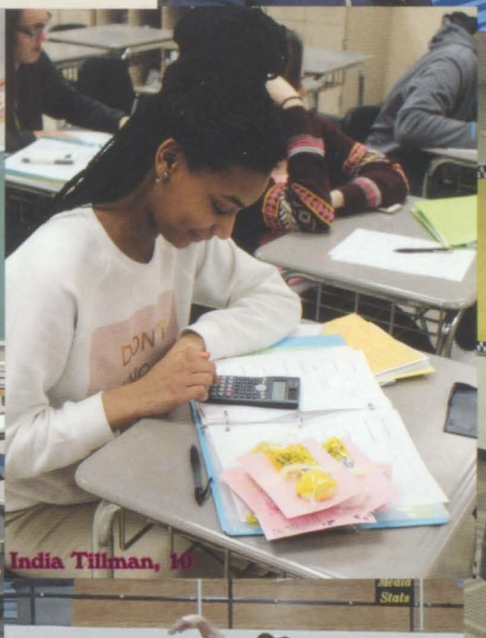




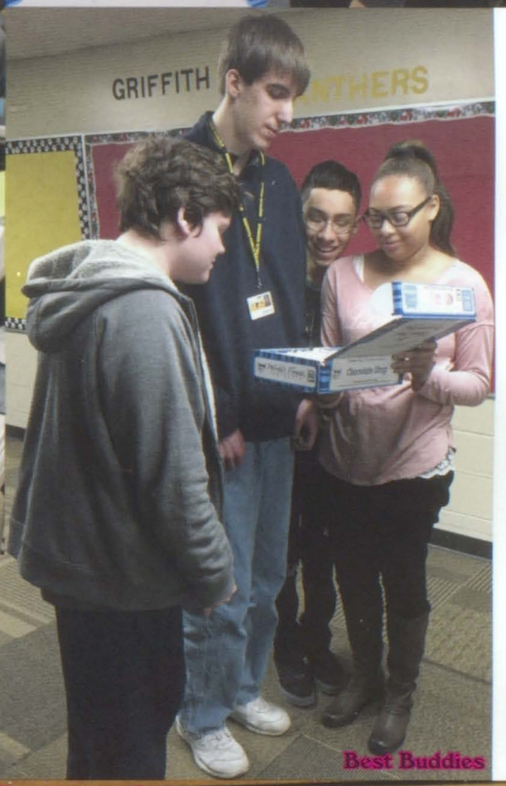
Mariah Fowler, 12 & Jake Diamond, 10

Elana Jones, 12 & Alex Leon, 12

Brooklyn Richardson, 11 & Kasey Tinsley, 11



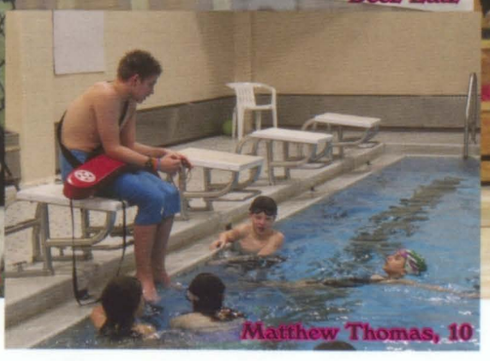
India Tillman, 10



Best Buddies

"Deez Eatz"

Girls' Soccer 50/50 Raffle



Matthew Thomas, 10

Pantherette Showcase

Lily Maravilla

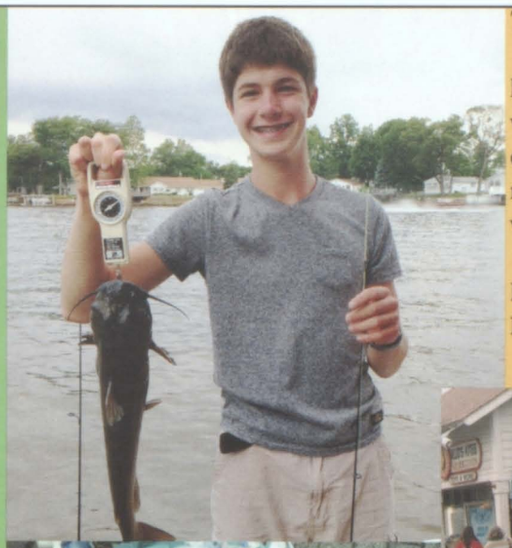
Lily,

You are a truly amazing and beautiful young woman who impresses us every day with your hard work, intelligence, sense of humor, and kindness. There is no doubt that you will do big things in your life. The sky's the limit! We are so proud of you!

Love you forever and always,
Grandma and Mom xo

"Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Tommy Biancardi



Tommy,

It is so hard to believe that one of our "babies" is about to graduate. Time surely does go so fast. We are so proud of all your achievements in high school, and we know you will continue to excel in college. Your compassion and kind-heartedness will always shine through. We wish you every blessing as you start the next part of your life, and we'll always be there for you. We all love you very, very much.

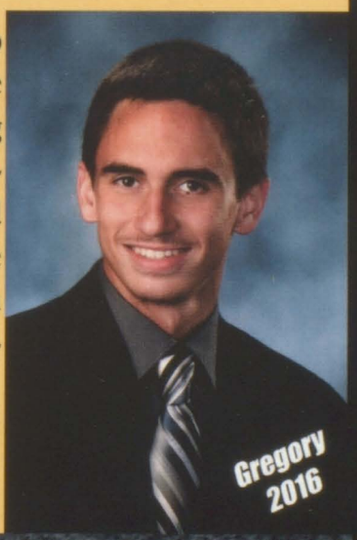
Love,
Dad, Mom, Nick, Elizabeth, and Allison

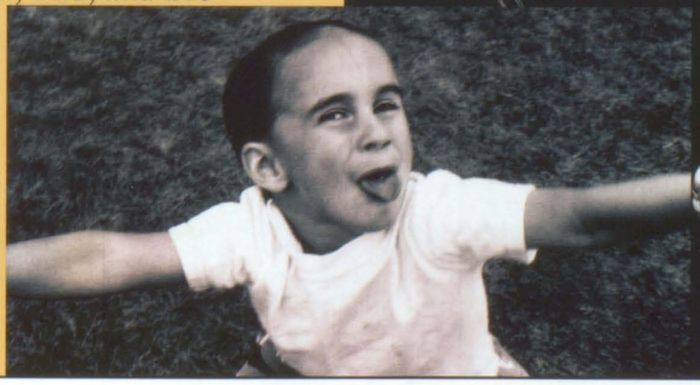
Gregory Copp

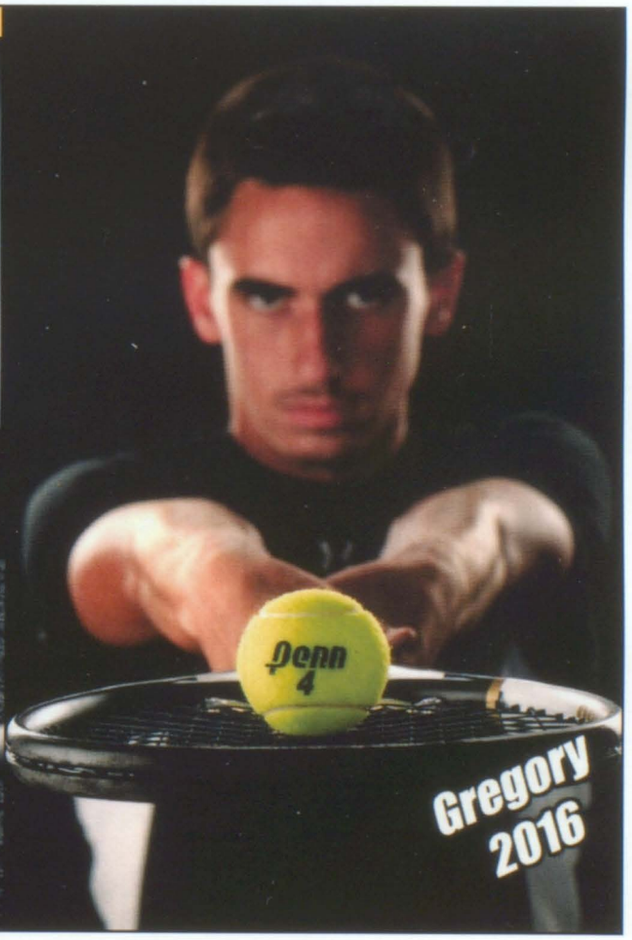
Gregory,

You have always been so fun to be around! You have become such a bright young man. Good luck, and remember we are all so very proud of you! We know you will be successful in whatever you choose to do. You are a wonderful son and brother.

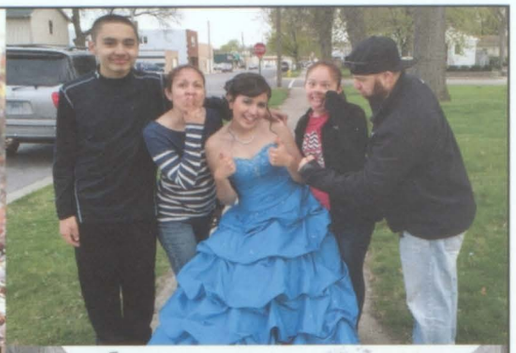
Love,
Mom, Dad, and Bre

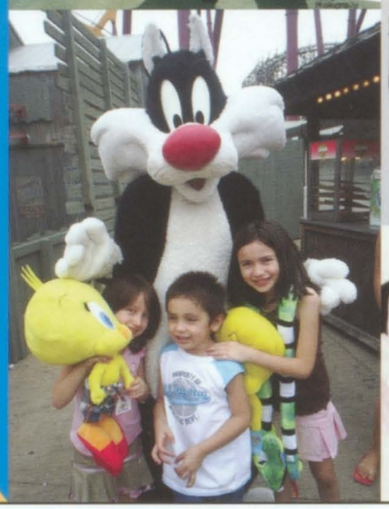


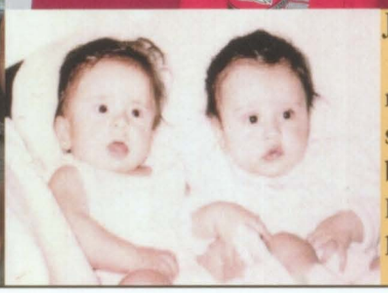




Jazmin Lopez







Jazmin,

Graduating is just the beginning of your life's journey. Be proud of yourself. Change the world. Always smile and live your dreams. May God continue to bless you and direct your path.

Love,

Dad, Mom, Jessica, Xavier, Grandpa, and Grandma

Adrian Lopez

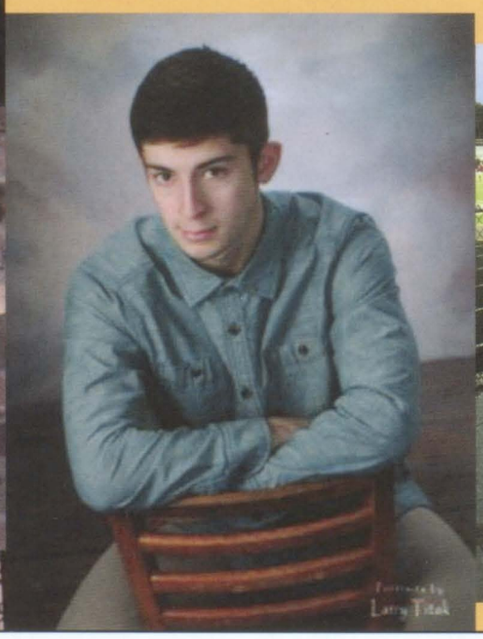
Adrian,

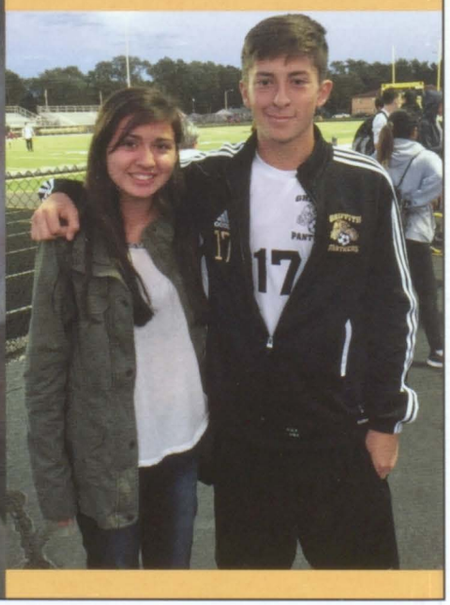
Congrats on completing your high school education. We can't believe you will be off to college soon and can not tell you enough how proud we are of you and the young man you have become. Wishing you the best at Purdue and whatever else you choose to accomplish.

Love, your family,

Dad, Mom, Jackie, and Vixen

P.S. Wishing Jazmin the best at Ball State.





Lauren Vieyra

Lauren,

You have worked very hard to get to where you are, and we are so very proud of you. You are such a beautiful, smart, unique, and determined young lady. We are very excited to see what will come next in your life. Work hard and believe in yourself and your dreams will come true. We love you and will always be there for you. Stay Fabulous.

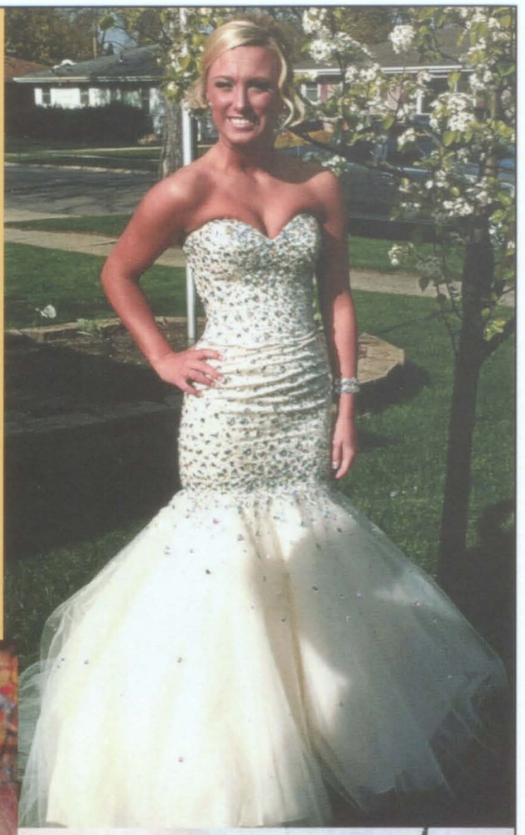
Love,
Dad, Mom, Melissa, and Alex

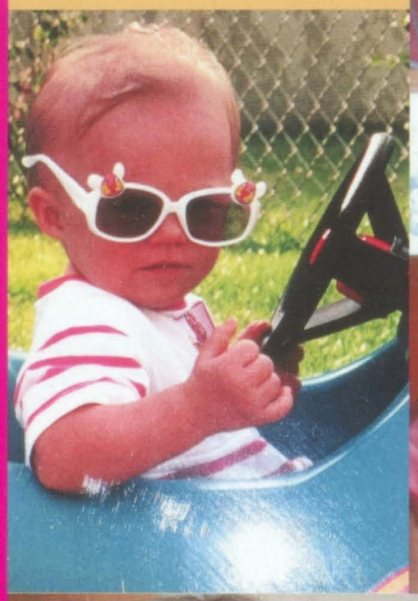
Caroline Loughren

Caroline,

I'm proud to be your mom and I am so proud of the young woman you have become. Follow your dreams, always ask "Why?" and never accept "No". You can accomplish anything. The words of Bob Dylan sum up my wish for you: "May God bless and keep you. May your wishes all come true. May you always do for others and let others do for you. May you build a ladder to the stars and climb every rung, and may you stay, forever young."

Love you,
Mom



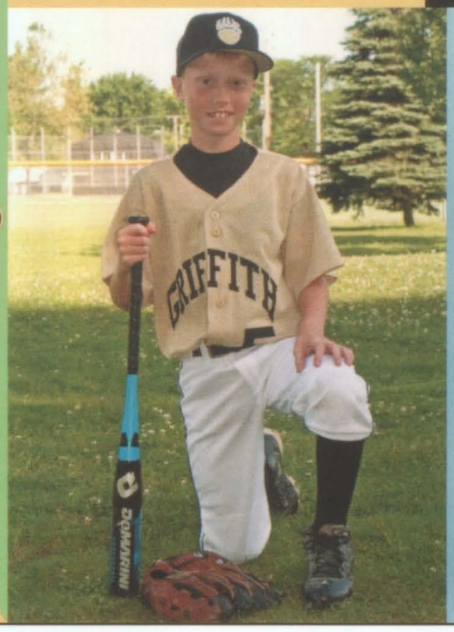


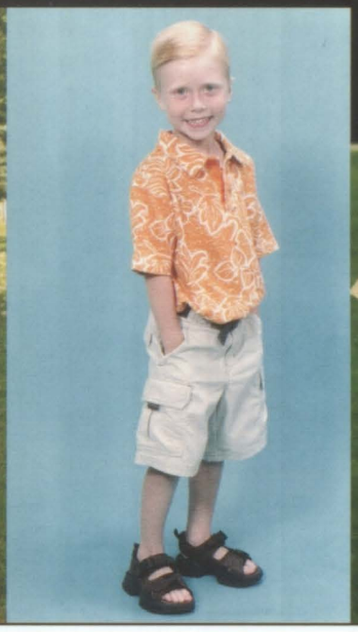
Kody Hoese

Kody,

Congratulations on all that you have achieved. We are so proud of your academic and athletic accomplishments. You are sure to do amazing things. We will always be there to support and love you.

Love,
Mom and Dad



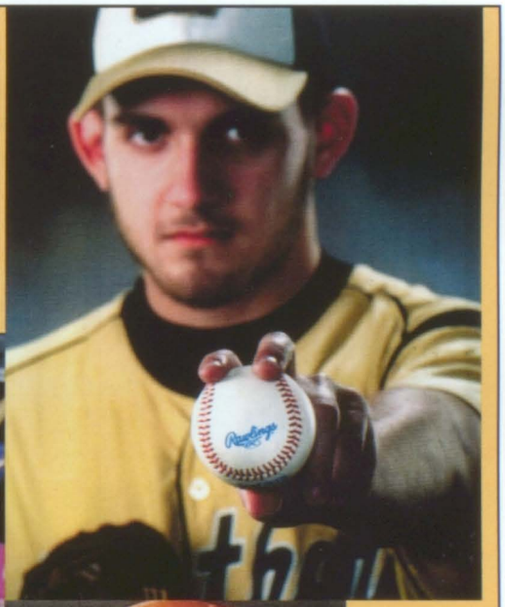


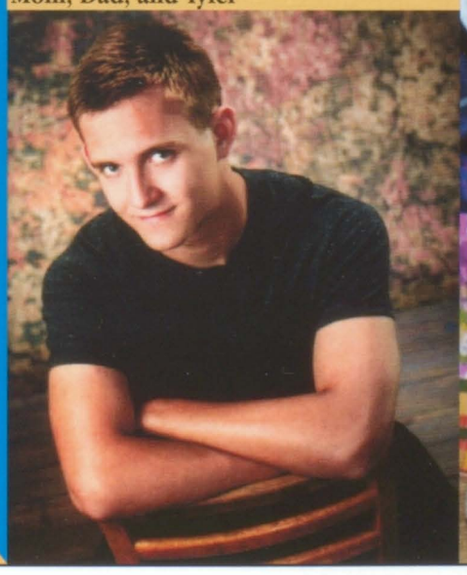
Jared Lipski

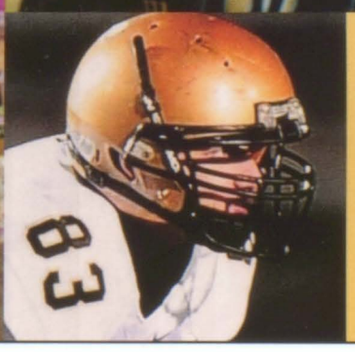
Jared,

It's hard too for us to believe that our JearBear is graduating high school! It's been a privilege to have front row seats to watch you grow into the intelligent, handsome, loving, and respectable young man that you have become. Words can not express how very proud we are of all you have accomplished thus far. Our wish for you as you move onto the next chapter in your life is to follow your dreams and always stay true to yourself and know how much we love you. No matter where you go in life or what you do, we will ALWAYS be here in the front row cheering you on because we are and always will be your "BIGGEST FANS!"

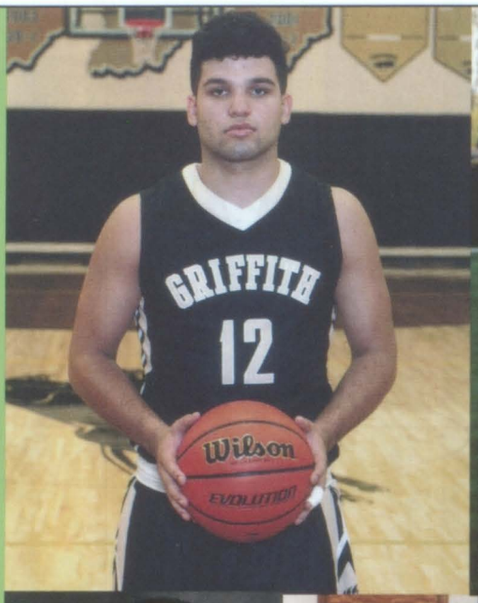
Love,
Mom, Dad, and Tyler



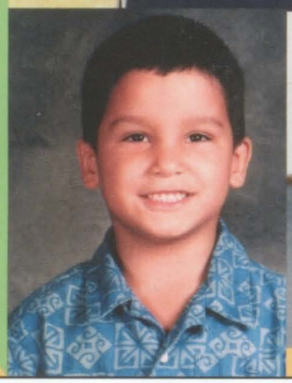


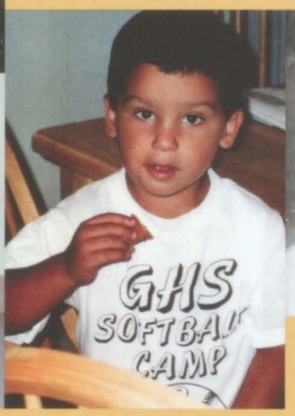


Anthony Quintero



Words can not express what a joy it has been to watch you grow from infancy to a young man. Your academic and sporting accomplishments have all been a pleasure to follow. We are now eager to see what the future holds and we know you will succeed. Your family will always support you in whatever positive path you choose. Reach for the sky son, because you are our star already.





Sabrina Garcia

Sabrina,

I've always said that God gave me two precious gifts, and you are one of them; my baby, the little girl who turned out to be a beautiful young woman. I'm so proud of you and the person you have become. As your high school years come to a close, and you begin to forge your own future, remember that we will always be by your side, every step of the way.

We love you!
Mom, Dad, and Big Brother

Troy Cullen

Troy,

We love you and are so proud of you. You have accomplished a lot throughout your hard work and dedication. Thank you for all of the wonderful memories. We wish you happiness and success in whatever the future holds.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Rex, and Ellison

Jacob Adams

Jacob,

It is hard to believe that our little boy is graduating! We loved watching you grow into the young man that you have become. Always be true to yourself and follow your dreams. We are so proud of you and everything you have accomplished. Good luck with your next chapter and new adventures. Keep smiling and and remember how much we love you.

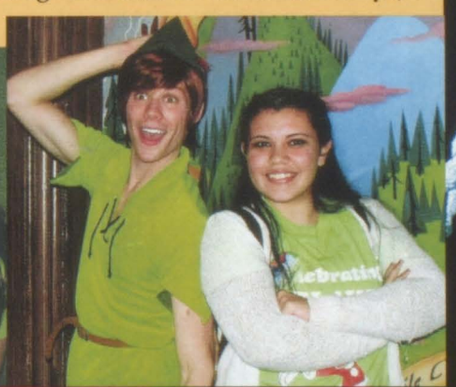
Love, Mom, Dad, Caylee, and
Riley

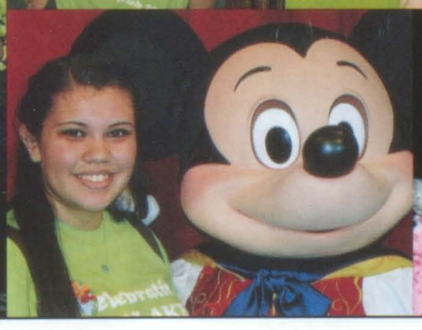
Teliya Loudenber

Teliya,

Our little girl is graduating! How fast time goes. We couldn't ask for a nicer, more caring daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece, and cousin. You are truly the best. Remember our song- "You Are My Sunshine"? Now it's time for you to shine. Make your dreams come true. Always remember what Grandpa and Walt Disney said- "If you can dream it, you can do it, remember this whole thing was started with a dream and a mouse. All things can come true if we have courage to dream it." Remember Teliya, I'll always take care of you. We love you!

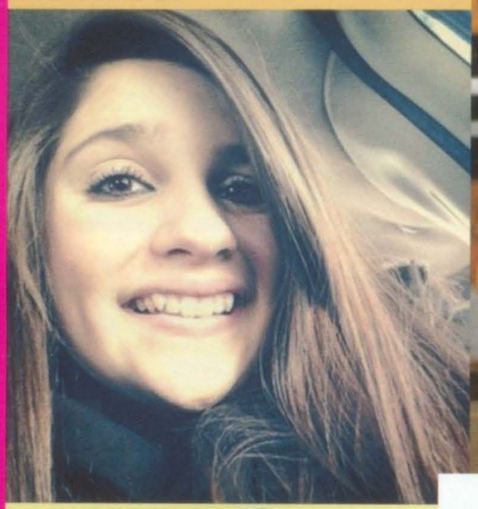
Love,
Grandma and
our entire gang

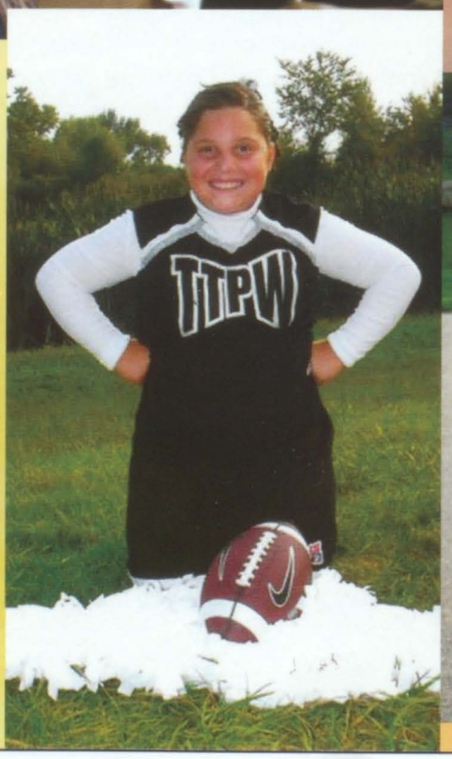




Alex Colomes

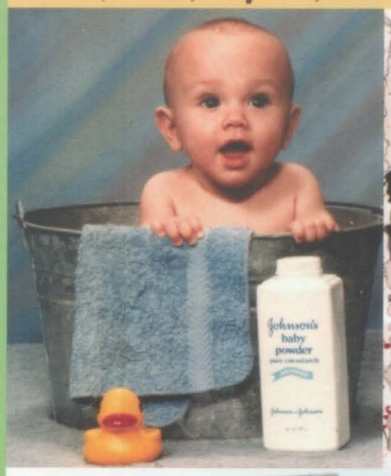
Oh my, how quickly time has passed.
It's time for our little Angel to fly.
When you take that leap, don't fear the fall.
When your challenges come, face them all.
Remember that failure always preceded success.
Alex, just stick to it, because you never quit!
Quitters never win, and winners never quit.
Remember the basics when it looks like it's falling apart.
It will light your way in the darkness.
With your beautiful smile, we know the road ahead of you is bright and joyous.
When it comes to life, you live it all.
We hope you see what the world has to give.
When the end comes, we want you to say I lived, I did it all!
Baby, leave no regrets.
We love you always and are proud of you, baby girl.
God bless and keep you always. We love you!
Mom and Dad

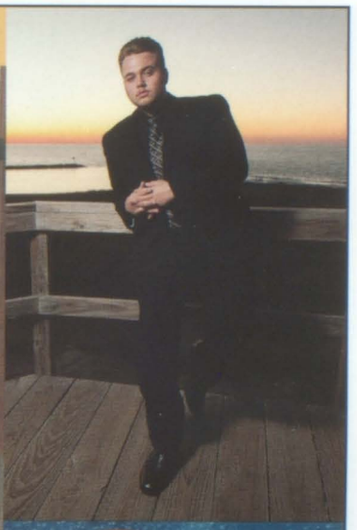


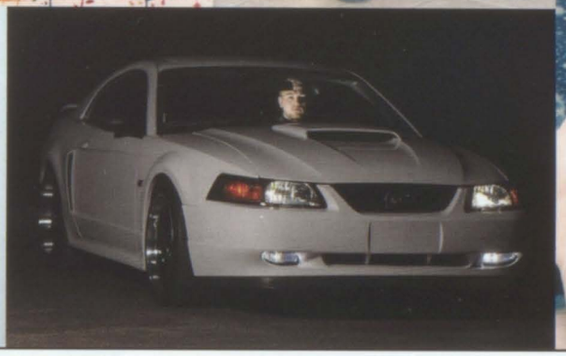


Joshua Lawrence

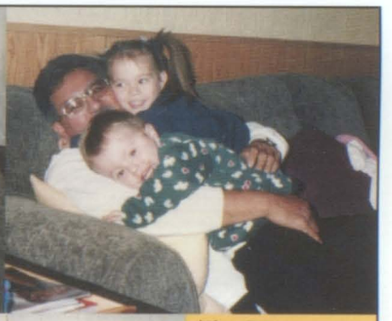
We're proud of you! Good luck with all you do in life.
Love always,
Mom, Dad, Alyssa, And Kayla

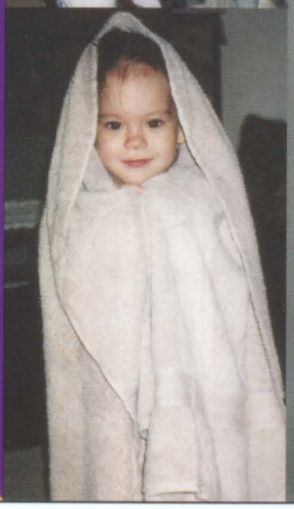


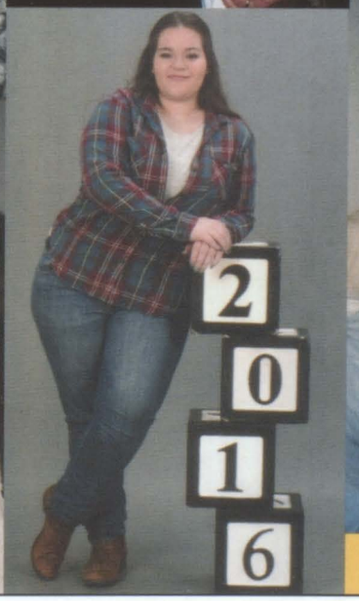


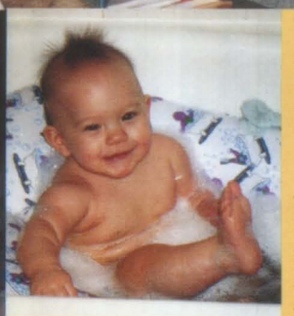


Riley Hendron









To Our Beautiful Riley,

We were blessed the minute we laid eyes on you and everyday since. We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what the future holds.
We love you,
Mom, Dad, Hannah, Nugget, Sammi, and Suzi Q.

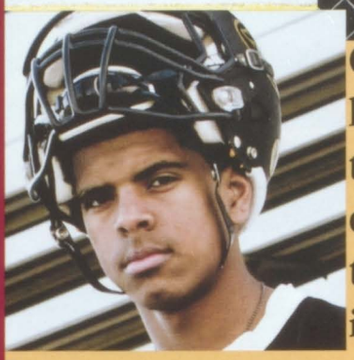
Tiffany Novak

To my beautiful and amazing daughter,
Words can't say how much we love you, you've grown so fast. You're going to be the greatest doctor, watch and see.
Love you, Tiffany

Bethany Brucer

Congratulations on your graduation from high school to the smartest, sweetest, and best daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece, and cousin. Good luck at Purdue Cal.
Love,
The Millers, the Velligans, the Lesczynskis, and the Thomases

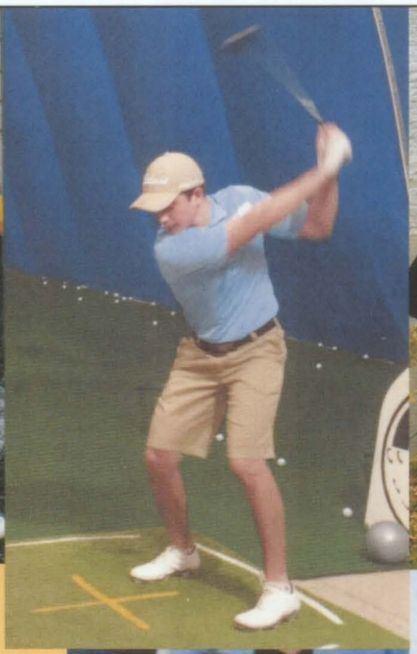
Jacob Cottrell

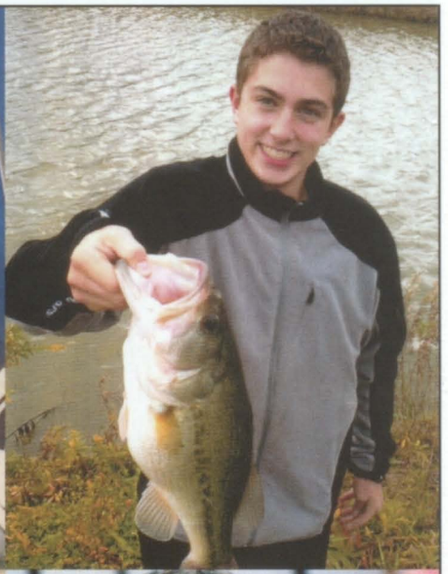


Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined.

Love,
Dad, Mom, and Bros

Brian Brzycki





Congratulations! You are now a high school graduate and ready to enter college life. Our family is very proud of you and your accomplishments. I know that you will continue reaching your goals in life. Remember the past, live in the present, and look forward to the future!
Love,
Dad, Mom, and Catherine

Jillian Beaupain

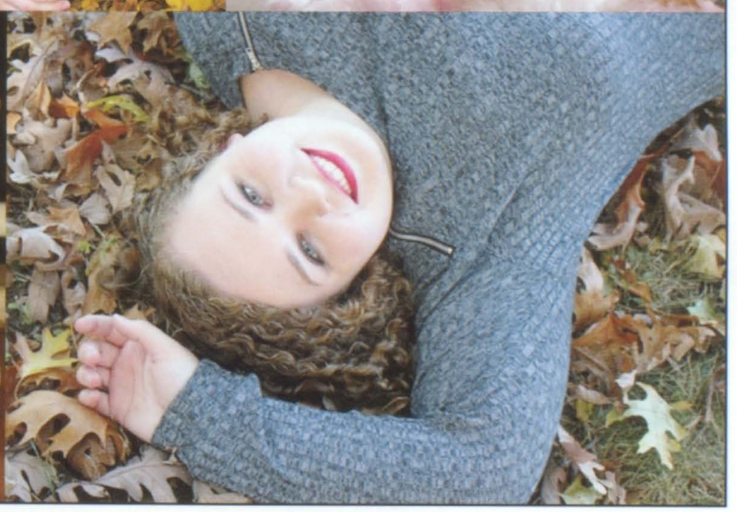
Jillian,

Congratulations on making it through your high school journey! I can't believe you are about to begin the next chapter of your life. You have worked so hard to achieve your goals and you have become a stronger person because of it. I am so proud of your achievements in academics and dance. I have loved watching you dance with Pantherettes, Danzforce, and at all of your other performances. I can only begin to imagine all the possibilities that your hard work and determination will bring you. Remember to make each day count, keep a smile on your face, and always do your very best. If you do, your dreams will come true. I am so proud of who you have become. Dream big and always let your heart guide you in your adventures.

You are loved,

Mom

#YearOfJill



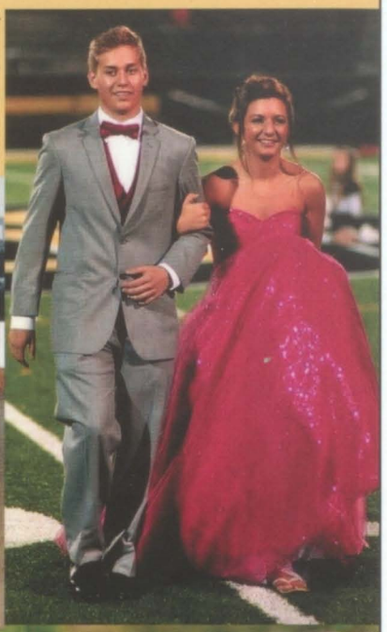
Victoria Holtzer

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the moments that take your breath away." Author unknown

You, my beautiful girl, had taken my breath away the moment you came into our lives. You smiled and dazzled and brought joy to our lives. May that joy follow you every day of your life and everyone who participates in the journey with you!

You have accomplished so much and although this is the end of the beginning, there is so much more of the adventure yet to come. Remember to let life's moments take your breath away as often as possible.

Love always and forever!
Mom, Dad, and Jillian



Leandra Wimmer

Leandra,

Can't believe how fast these past four years have gone by. You went from a beautiful little girl to an amazing young lady. We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished. Best of luck to you in college. We all love you very much.

XOXO

Antonio Garcia

Congratulations, we are so proud of you. Don't be afraid to go after what you want, you'll always have our support.

Love Mom, Jav, and Lil Jav

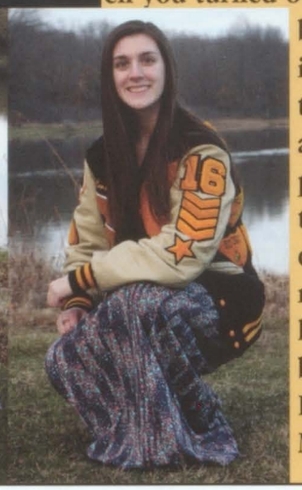
"The choices we make and the chances we take determine our destiny."

-Ritu Ghatourey

Kersten Collins

From the day you were born I knew you were someone special. You came into the world peacefully and continued to be an amazing child! As you grew, I saw fears of putting yourself out in the world. You were very shy and I was anxious to watch you approach each new experience in your life and how you would handle it. Every time you've conquered your fears you made me a proud momma! I admire you. Till you came along, I had never known anyone so strong and brave. As I watch you now make your life decisions, I couldn't be happier with the path you have chosen... the beautiful intelligent women you turned out to be and the heart of gold that beats inside of you. You are a genuine person and have a lot to offer to the world. You have made my job as a mother one of the greatest experiences of my life. I look forward to see the amazing things you will do and thank you for all the memories you have given me this far. You have truly made my life better just by being a part of it!

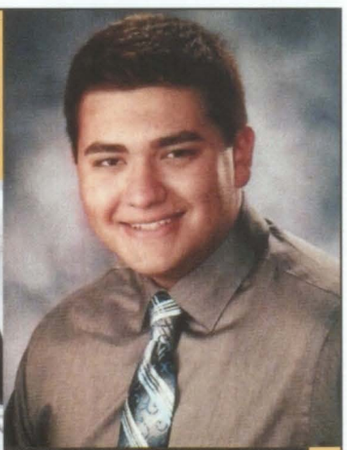
I love you with all my heart,
Mom

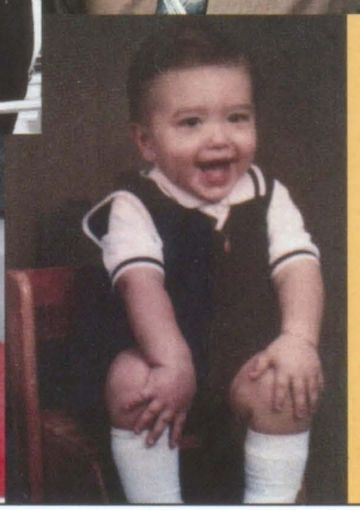


Logan Sammons

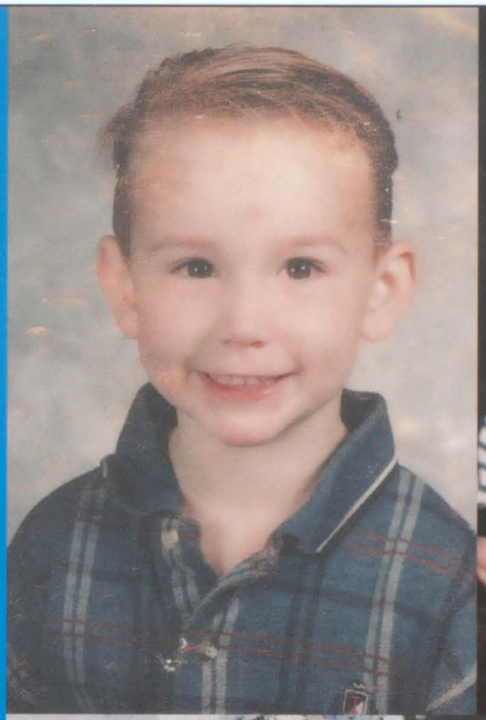
Senior year... Where has the time gone? Son, we want you to know how proud we are of all accomplishments and the loving, generous young man you have become. You truly represent STRENGTH. Keep moving forward because greater things are destined for you. Always remember to be safe, have fun and make smart choices.

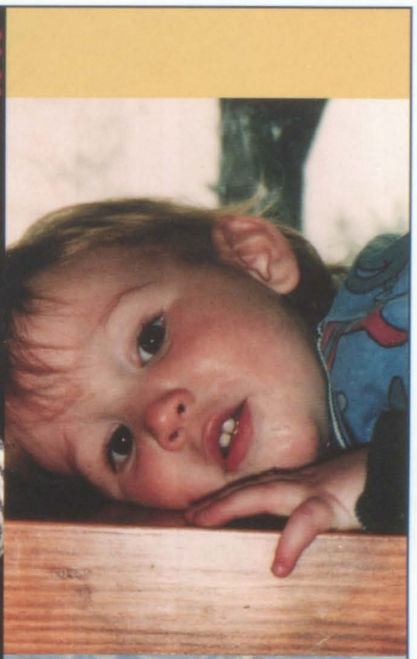
All our love,
Mom and Dad





Nathan Vuckovich



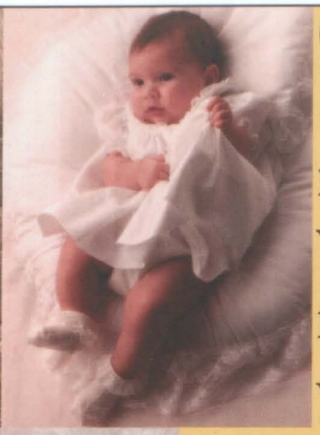


Nathan,

I can't believe the time has come for you to graduate. It seems to have gone by in a flash. I'm so very proud of you, bud. You've always been such a bright thoughtful, caring energetic and generous little boy. I've watched you adapt and grow, knowing you can achieve anything you put your mind to. Stay focused son. Embrace your inner strength, always do your best, respect those around you and have faith God will guide you. Your path is ahead of you. Enjoy the journey and remember we love you.

Mom, Jacy, and Leah

Camryn Linders

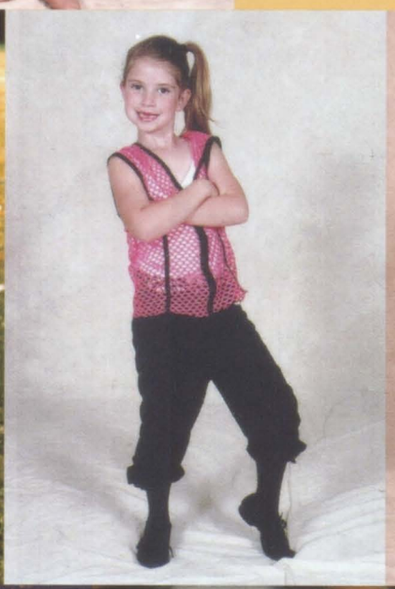


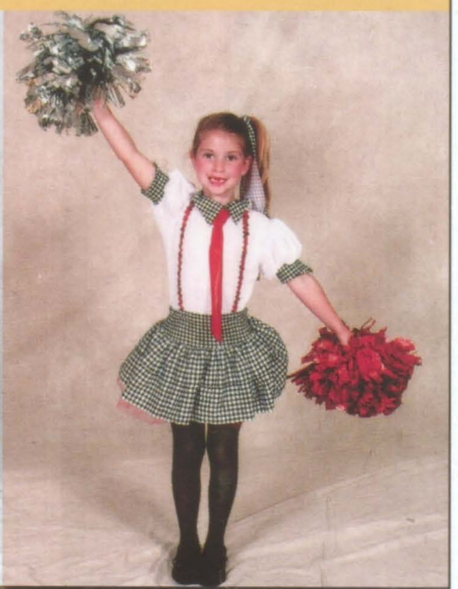
Camryn,

It's amazing how fast time has gone. You are such a smart, funny, and beautiful young woman. We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what awaits you in the future. Congratulations!

Love,

Dad, Mom, Carleigh, and Callie





Alexandra Longoria

My Little Peanut,

Over the last 18 years, I've watched you grow into a young woman. I am so proud of who you have become and can't wait to see what you do in the future. I know you will always make us proud. May God bless you with direction and determination to guide your life.

Love,
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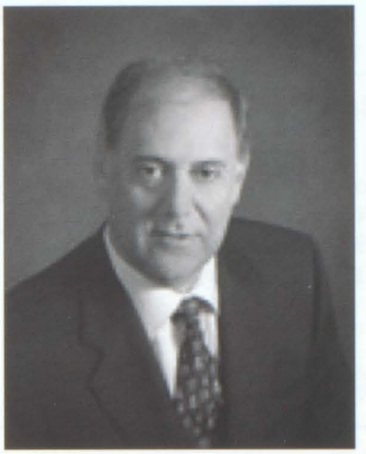

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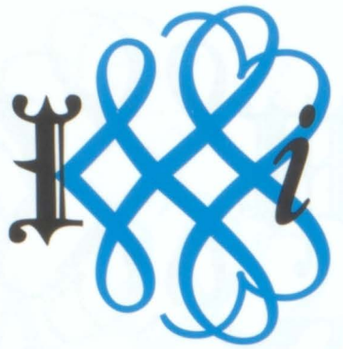

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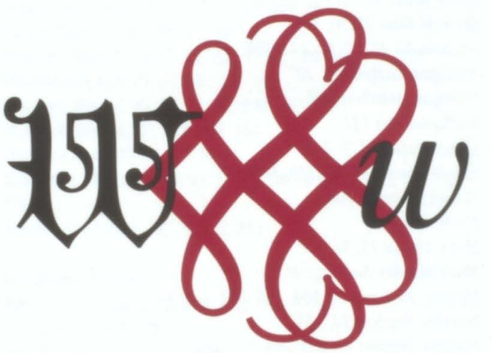

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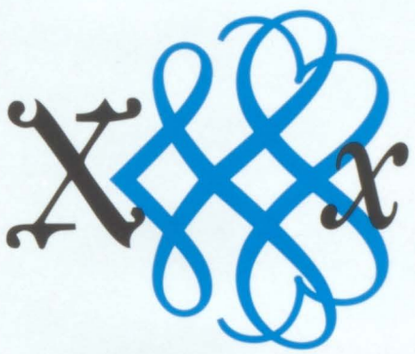

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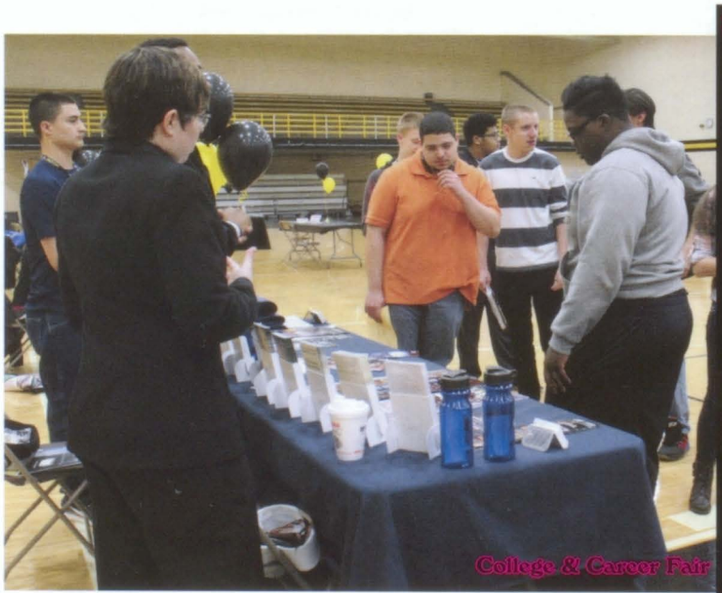
The End...

Whether a student was overwhelmed with stress because of final exams and AP tests, anxious to increase their GPA to a passing level before the last day, or relaxed knowing that summer was quickly approaching, every member within the GHS boundaries had last minute responsibilities that needed to be fulfilled.

Spring break's week of relaxation began on Friday, March 25th and carried into the first weekend in April. Senior's yearly banquet occurred on Thursday, April 14th and the number of students in the hallways was drastically decreased that Friday for ditch day. On April 27th, the senior class was invited into the auditorium for a presentation about the effects of drinking and driving. Students heard three different stories, each from a different perspective. They were also entertained by an illusionist and had the opportunity to take pictures with the group and have cards signed by the illusionist. Seniors received caps and gowns on April 29, 2016. This year's prom took place on May 6, 2016. Following the eventful weekend of prom, many students chose to take the Monday, May 9th off to catch up on rest and be with friends. Once the students returned, advanced placement tests and finals took over the remainder of the school year. Preparation, review games, and lesson refreshers piled on as the days of tests drew closer. And finally, the last school day arrived on Friday, May 27, 2016. For the seniors, the final chapter in their story book wasn't written until the day of June 5th, otherwise known as Graduation.

While the year was winding down, GHS organizations, sports teams, and clubs never let up on their work. Girls' tennis and boys' golf wrapped up their seasons shortly before the conclusion of the academic year, but baseball and softball games continued through June. National Honor Society completed their yearly service project by having a community clean up day on May 14, 2016 that took place throughout the town.

For the summer, each grade took on various responsibilities and reflected upon their experiences from the previous year. Graduation parties, college orientation visits, and dorm room shopping were events that filled the summer for soon to be college freshmen. Juniors prepared for the SATs and ACTs as their final step in the high school experience brought them closer to college admission and adult responsibilities. Sophomores shook off their second year at GHS and dreaded the upcoming semesters which had the reputation of being the most difficult year of them all. Freshmen students reflected on their accomplishments for their first year and took the time to relax and also prepare for the second stage of their journey.



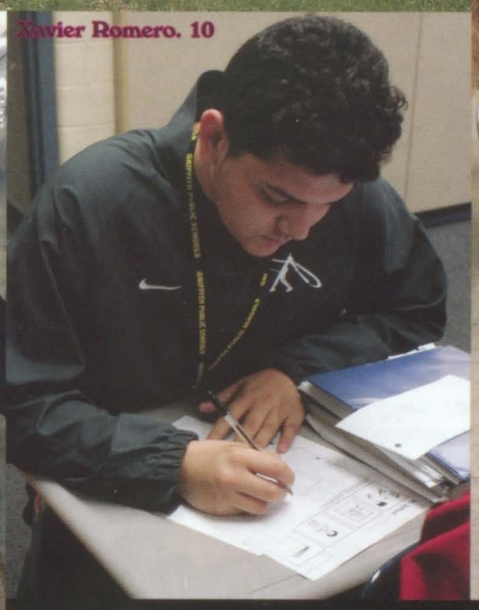
College & Career Fair

Nikki Hamm, 12

Community Clean Up Day

Alexis Gonzalez, 11

Cole Cervantes, 9 &
Andrew Davenport, 9



Xavier Romero, 10

Choir Awards Night

Letters From the Editors

Kersten Collins
Co-Editor

The past three and a half years being a publications member were absolutely amazing. I can now officially say that I have aided in the creation of four wonderful yearbooks that will forever serve as memories to those who endeavor in them. Although the process of putting everything together was stressful for Victoria and I, it was always worth it once we sent deadline. The long, rigorous hours after school, the never-ending pile of proofs, and the frustrating task of designing a deadline all turned into a sense of accomplishment knowing that our yearbook turned out just the way we imagined it.

Without the opportunities that I was given through staff, I would have never decided that my college major most definitely had to be journalism. Working with the staff and photographers as one giant team these last few years has taught me the importance of communication and that is a life skill that will follow me into the future.

It was an honor to work with the *Reflector* members, the Herff Jones representatives, and most importantly, Mrs. Collard. Going from my Journalism teacher to my publications advisor, and a second mom to all of her yearbook "kids", she's taught me so many important things that weren't just yearbook related. Life outside of GHS will be difficult once I begin a new chapter in my life, but the skills that I've learned already will make me more proud to say that I was a Griffith publications student.

Victoria Holtzer
Co-Editor

I didn't realize it my first day of freshman year that I would meet not only my mentor for the next four year, but also an inspiration. Mrs. Collard is the reason I joined and continued to stay on staff. She has not only been my teacher, but my best friend and a mother figure when needed. Without being in her journalism class four years ago, I would've never gotten the opportunity to be a part of the *Reflector* staff.

No matter the amount of stress this class has given me, there's nothing better than being a part of this staff. From all the birthday celebrations to the Secret Santa revealings, the memories the different staffs have given me are truly unforgettable. This class gave me the chance to work with people that I would've never met unless they joined yearbook.

This yearbook wouldn't of been possible without Kersten. She has helped me fix my computer more times than I can count and has never gotten annoyed with me when I asked the same question for the 100th time. I want to give a thanks to my staff members for always working hard and always making me smile with your random dance parties or crazy stories.

Once I graduate from GHS, I plan to bring my publications life with me to Indiana University and use all the skills I have learned the past four years. I hope the future editors enjoy their senior year just as much as I did and take in every second; it goes by too fast.

Jazmin Lopez
Photo Editor

During my four years at GHS I never thought I would be involved in anything publication related, let alone be a photographer. My whole perspective changed when I joined Mr. Graff's photography class my sophomore year. Mrs. Collard approached our class asking if anyone was interested in becoming a photographer for yearbook next year. The moment she asked that question my whole high school career changed.

I joined yearbook my junior year and have been in love with it ever since. I was ecstatic to be involved in school related activities. Being able to capture moments that will last a lifetime was the best part of being on staff. Once junior year was coming to an end and my senior year was about to begin, I knew it was my chance to make everything count. I was thrilled to find out that Mrs. Collard chose me to be the photo editor, so I knew I couldn't let her down.

This all wouldn't have been possible without the help of the other photographers, Christine and Leandra. Without their fantastic photo skills that they have shared with the staff, everything would've been more chaotic. I'm going to miss the whole yearbook staff, especially our music jams while we're working.

Thank you to Mrs. Collard for being an amazing advisor and being someone to talk to when I needed it. My senior year was definitely one to remember and I hope everyone enjoys this yearbook for all the hard work we put together.

Colophon

Volume 75 of the *Reflector* is a product printed by Herff Jones located at 2525 Midpoint Drive, Edwardsville, Kansas. Betty Samples, Griffith's Herff Jones representative, assisted in the creation of the front and back cover and also helped the staff with important issues and deadlines. Our thanks and gratitude goes to this plant and their representatives as we had numerous requests throughout the year and they were able to fulfill our every desire.

At the beginning of the year, yearbooks were priced at $70. However, the price increased to $85 by the conclusion of the school year. For this 2015-2016 book, the theme was "Storybook." With this, the designs throughout the pages were centered primarily on choosing whimsical elements and creative fonts. Being that it was a storybook, the publication was divided into four "chapters" which represented the four nine-week quarters within a school year. On every spread, the first letter was written with the intention of mimicking a drop cap using the font AHJ Suited and sizing it to be much larger than the remainder of the title, which was written in AHJ Garamond Cond. Stories were completed using AHJ Verona Regular and captions were written in AHJ Verona Bold.

All pages were designed by editors Victoria Holtzer and Kersten Collins using Adobe InDesign CS6 and Adobe Photoshop CS6 programs on iMac computers running on OS X Yosemite. Once completed, pages were sent through ePage, eProof, and eService. Photos were provided by on-staff photographers and completed by a staff of reporters. Larry Titak generously donated his time and studio located in Schererville, Indiana to provide senior photos for the people section of the *Reflector*. In addition, photographer Jerry Lipski kindly granted the staff access to his photos taken at sporting events. Also, Top Ten head shots were taken by Mr. Lipski. Faculty photos were taken by Trysh Jaeger Photography.

While most responsibilities regarding the design of the *Reflector* were fulfilled by the editors, none of the larger tasks could have been done without the advisor, Mrs. Collard. On behalf of the staff, the editors would like to express our absolute gratitude to such an amazing source of guidance. The *Reflector* staff would not exist if it weren't for the undying dedication that Mrs. Collard has put forth in the publication.

Reflector Staff 2016

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Vanessa Bullion

Erica Ward

Riley Hendron

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Daniella Ayala

Grace Opinker

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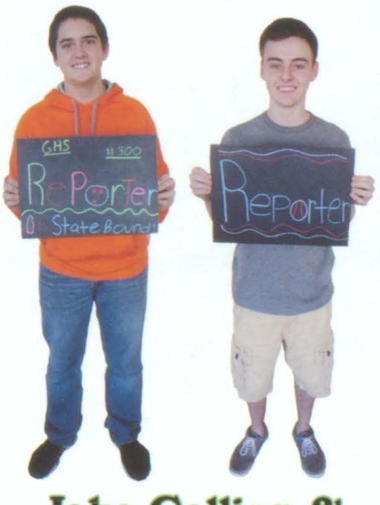

Jake Collins &
Cody Wilkins